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Jurgen Klinsmann The Interview

WORLD SOCCER's Keir Radnedge spoke exclusively to Jurgen Klinsmann, Germany's new captain and folk hero of White Hart Lane, about the life and times of a wandering star . . .

WORLD SOCCER: You have a particularly wide knowledge of European and world football through having played at top level in Germany, Italy, France and now England. How do the different styles compare?

JURGEN KLINSMANN: It is always difficult to compare different countries precisely because every country has its own style. The English style is a very open and offensive mentality. They just go as fast they can to create as many chances as they can. The pace of the game here is very intense. The Italian style is to be very well-organised – tactically, the highest level at which I have played. The players know each exact detail of their organisation on the pitch, as you can see in their results in European competitions. But the pace is neither as high as it is in England or Germany. The Bundesliga is something in between. German teams have a certain level of tactical education but still love to attack. France was a very different experience. When I went there the priority for every club was not to concede a goal and then wait, all 90 minutes if necessary, in the hope of snatching one. But it's started to change with the switch to three points for a win. When I was there only Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille – as they used to be – dared to attack.

Which style suits you best?

At the moment I am really enjoying the English style because as a striker I love to score goals – and, to score goals, you need the sort of team-mates who can deliver the ball. I had problems with this in my second year in Monaco and in my third year with Inter. Suddenly I didn't have any team-mates who could pass to me and so there you are, in front of goal but no chance to score, so then people start to attack you – and so you lose your own self-confidence and things just go from bad to worse. I've had times like that. But right now I am enjoying myself because I have players next to me like Teddy Sheringham and Nick Barmby who get the ball forward as fast as they can. It's a great help!

English football is considered one of the most entertaining styles – when English teams are playing each other. But European club results suggest that, technically and tactically, they still lack a certain football sophistication.

Compared with Italy and France the English game, tactically, is not on the same level but they have their own way of causing continental teams trouble. Good examples this season have been Newcastle and Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup. They controlled their games and played really well but they were not clever enough to close down the games – in Villa's case against Trabzonspor and in Newcastle's case Athletic Bilbao. It's a question of experience because the English clubs were out of European competition for a long time. The trick is making sure that, at home, if you maybe lead 1-0, then you should not chase a second at all costs. That's what happened to Newcastle. Kevin Keegan said after the game that he had wanted to get out on the pitch and pull his players back. In these sorts of games you have to keep calm.

For the first time, with Germany, you have become a captain. Did you never want the honour or responsibility before?

Yes – but I never stayed long enough in any one place. It usually goes to the most experienced player or the one with longest service in the club. I always left before I got in danger of becoming captain. If I had stayed at Inter now I think I would have come close to it. As for Germany, that's a little different. It's certainly a great pleasure because being captain of your national team means something special. I know that I am captain of Germany only until Lothar Matthaus is fit again.

What do you do as captain that is different?

For one thing, you are closer to the manager. You discuss certain points with him, more than I did before as an ordinary team member. Then you have to look after the players who are playing for the national team for the first time. You have to make sure that the team spirit is OK but, if you feel something is going wrong or a particular player has a problem, then it is now your job to look after him, to discuss it with him and talk to the manager about it. It's important you make every player feel he is a really important member of the team. Against Georgia, for example, we had a case in point in Thomas Hassler. Now he has 60 caps already for Germany and has played all the recent big tournaments unbelievably well, but he's going through a period in which things are going badly. You can tell this is weighing on his mind. Then it's the job of the captain to tell the manager so he can reassure the player that his loss of form is only temporary.

Who was the best captain you have ever played under?

That's difficult because of the different mentalities in the countries where I have played. Being captain in Italy is different to being captain in Germany. But I do remember playing at Stuttgart when Asgeir Sigurvinsson, from Iceland, was our captain and I really admired him. He was a very calm player, a great playmaker. I worked with him for five years and learned a lot from him. But more from Sigurvinsson the player than Sigurvinsson the captain. You don't look up to a player just because he wears the armband. There's much more to it than that.

You've played football in four countries now but is it right to think that living in different countries is as important for you as playing there?

I always wanted to go abroad. At 15 or 16 I started travelling around Europe and, at 18, I went to America for the first time. I always wanted to go abroad to meet different people and see different lifestyles so it was logical that one day, if I got the chance to go abroad for work, I would use it. Actually, I might have started two years before I went to Inter. In 1988 Monaco wanted to buy me but I was not a national team player then so Stuttgart said: No way. I suppose they wanted to wait until they could get more money for me! The start of the season before I did go was really interesting. Even before we had played a game people were already discussing what I would do at the end of the season, would I stay or would I leave? The funniest thing was the attitude of Arie Haan, our manager then. He said quite openly: "There's no doubt, this guy will leave at the end of the season." Now you would expect your manager to say that he hopes you would stay. Instead Haan was saying: "This guy HAS to leave and I accept he is looking forward to the experience." And so football has given me the opportunity to meet different people, learn different languages and handle different mentalities. I didn't think in the beginning that it would be so difficult. I thought, okay, it is still Europe. You can drive all over Europe in your car and you can be back in Germany quickly. But when I came down into Italy it was really hard in the beginning. It took me a while to understand that you had to take the people the way they are and not the way you want them to be. We Germans have this thing that we always want to be kind of perfect. So we want other people to be the same. In Italy they have a different attitude. I mean, if you have an appointment at two o'clock and the person comes at four o'clock and then you get upset, he looks at you and asks: "What's your problem?" Then, eventually, you understand this is not Germany, this is Italy. So, you learn to handle this and accept it and respect it and then YOU start to change. ***(cont'd over)***

'When I look back I don't think I will count how many goals I scored, but I can say I lived i

'ther countries, I learned the languages . . . these are the things which make you rich inside'

When in Rome do as Romans?
Precisely. If not, then you won't survive and you'll have gained nothing. I mean, I'm only going to play another two or three years, I guess. But when I look back I don't think I will count how many goals I scored or whatever happened but I can say to myself I lived in other countries, I learned the languages enough to speak them reasonably well – not perfect, but quite well. That will be a big satisfaction. These are the things which make you rich inside.

Are you ambitious to play in any other countries?
You cannot play in every country. There are too many! But I did have the chance to play in Spain twice, with Real Madrid. The first time was in 1989 and I had a choice between Real and Inter and I decided on Inter. The main reason was because there were two Germans already playing there, Matthaus and Brehme. A second point was that it was comparatively close to Stuttgart, to my home. I need to feel I can get home quickly because my family and my friends mean a lot to me. At that time in 1989 it seemed better to be four or five hours away by car than having to fly a long way from Madrid to Stuttgart. The second time was in 1992 when I discussed going there with Leo Beenhakker, who was then the coach. But it all blew up because Beenhakker got sacked. So, instead, I talked with Paris Saint-Germain and with Monaco and decided on Monaco.

You said once you would never go back to Germany to play. But do you think, now, you might change your mind and round off your career in the Bundesliga?
Difficult . . . you may have seen a story in the papers saying that Bayern Munich had asked me whether, if I ever thought of coming back, that we might talk to each other. Well, anything is possible in football. Maybe one day someone rings you up from a big club and you start thinking about things. But, really, as far as the Bundesliga is concerned I must say that the possibility for me to go back is very small.

Moving on to the international scene, what do you expect of the European Championship finals in England?
I'm sure there won't be any problems. For sure it was a shock for everyone here when trouble blew up in Dublin. But just analyse what happened: there was no fence, the trouble-makers were neo-Nazis trying to get some publicity and they knew that the security forces in Dublin were not prepared for any kind of trouble. That's why it all started and that, in turn, influenced some drunken fans – and that was the story. But I think the European Championship will be very well organised. I have noticed how incredibly well disciplined the fans are here. I've never seen fans like it in Germany, Italy and not even in France – particularly when you consider there are no fences any more. You would think, having the fans so close to you, that you would feel in danger but that is not the case. You feel safe. I enjoy this feeling you get when the ball goes out of play and you see these little kids sitting in the front rows. They have big eyes and they smile at you – you can see they are happy. That gives me the impression there will be no problems at Euro '96. Of course, you never know. There are stupid people everywhere. Football's problem is that it gets so much worldwide attention, from media and public, you will always have crazy people trying to use this publicity, this stage, to gain attention.

On the subject of the relationship between fans and players, how did you view the Cantona incident?
He has had problems before, hasn't he, in trying to keep his temper under control? The public notice things like that and it becomes a game. So the fans at away games start baiting him to try to find his limit. What happened at Selhurst Park was that he was sent off for a foul which, in my opinion, did not deserve a red card. He touched the player with a kick but I thought to show the red card immediately was exaggerated. So when Cantona left the pitch he was insulted in a very bad way by a fan and, yes, he went beyond his limit of tolerance. I blame Cantona but I also blame the public for playing games with players like that.

Four languages, one opinion . . . Klinsmann makes his point

If you were president of Inter, would you try to buy Cantona?
Cantona, for me, is a support striker. He is not a No 9 who is always throwing his weight about in the penalty box. I know perhaps you are thinking more about how he will react under the pressures of Italian football. But for me the most important question is the technical one because Inter's problem has been that they have always had two 'second' strikers not one real centre-forward. Not since I left and then Aldo Serena went. If they want Cantona then they must buy a proper centre-forward as well. Then he could make it in Italy.

What about the media pressure in Italy compared with England?
It is a different kind of pressure. In Italy they have three sport newspapers every single day and they need to fill their pages but they write about the football itself and sport in general. In England you have the problem that you have seven or eight tabloid papers. They try to find their stories off the pitch so the Cantona case was really big for them. They started following him everywhere. It didn't stop when he left the training ground, or when he left the stadium. I had the same problem for the first couple of months when I came over here. I saw them following me. I saw them waiting across the street with cameras so I knew they were more interested in my private life than what was actually happening on the football pitch.

How does it work in Italy?
In Italy they come up every day to the training ground, all the journalists, also the TV, and if you have 15 or 20 minutes for them then it is fine. They are happy, you've done your job by them and after that they leave you alone. No-one ever tried to call me at home in Italy. Never, in all the three years I was there. Not here! Here they try to find out everything. It's annoying. But it doesn't make me have second thoughts about having come to play in England. I know that, if they followed me for two years, they will not find anything. It was interesting studying how they work. They went into the shops where I went and asked the people what was I buying, what was I talking about? So I went to one of these shops and I said: "You see these guys, hanging around here with these cameras? Just give them a message for me. Tell them that I have a lot of respect for them, tell them that they are professionals, that I understand they are only doing their job because they have a market here for this kind of stuff. But tell them that I am also a professional. They can save a lot of money by not following me for two years." That is what I told them and they left me alone.

When the German national team went to Georgia the players were staying, for the first time in nine years, in the same hotel as the media. How did that work out?
After the game we went into the hotel bar and there were all the journalists too and we had a couple of beers and some good conversations. It was a relaxed atmosphere. I think it's interesting for us players to have a chat with journalists. In Germany the problem has been that, with so many media outlets, the competition among them became so intense they didn't respect the normal rules any more. I think most of us would love to have a couple of beers after the game with the journalists if we could be sure of their discretion. But that hasn't been possible. The English press are different again or, at least, the tabloids. When I came here first I was staying at a hotel and they would leave me notes and messages with offers for exclusive interviews. They were quoting amounts such as £25,000-£30,000 for four or five interviews. I wondered what kind of business was that? I didn't know the people at all. They just left their name, what paper they write for, and the offer.

Apart from the media, what will be the dangers to Germany out on the pitch at Euro '96?
First we have to qualify. But then there is no team I would like to avoid because once the finals start the pressure is virtually the same whoever you play. There are great expectations from the whole country and you must never relax. I mean, with all respect to those guys from Bulgaria in the United States, we lost that quarter-final because WE threw it away. We just got over-confident after going 1-0 up. We got sloppy, not concentrating enough and 'Boom!' it was over in just a couple of minutes. If we had continued playing normally we would have been in the semi-final against Italy. I am always optimistic when there is a big tournament coming up because maybe Germany have the kind of mentality that always needs a certain pressure.

Jurgen Kohler has said he will finish his international career after the 1996 European Championships. He is nearly the same age as you. Will you retire from the national team too?
As long as my form remains then I want to play for Germany because I always enjoy it a lot, it's something really special.

'When I first came here journalists would leave messages with offers for exclusive interviews. They were quoting amounts such as £30,000 for four or five interviews . . . what kind of business was that?'

With one year to go to the European Championships, is team spirit better or worse than a year before the World Cup?
We have changed a couple of things compared with last year. A few new young players have been brought in whereas the team which played in America had been virtually the same over quite a long period. Now players like Brehme and Voller – good experienced players – have retired from the national team and the replacements need time to find their feet and feel comfortable in the team.

Why is it that countries such as Italy, France, Germany and England are having big problems at national team level while their clubs are among the best in European competition? Are the clubs destroying the national teams?
No, I wouldn't say so. The club team and the national team are two completely different things because, with the national team, you have to mix players from different clubs and you have to find your own system to play. Perhaps Holland are an exception because Ajax play the same system as the national team players. I don't think standards are slipping.

Does the defeat by Bulgaria still bother you?
No, not any more, but it took me a long time to forget about it, because I had been concentrating on this last World Cup over a long period. Players sacrifice a lot for a big tournament like that. For example I am not a player who likes to stay in hotels or training camps. I need to get out, to see people, to discuss things. But when a big tournament is coming up you sacrifice yourself for this tournament in order to try to be successful. At USA '94 we had a couple of problems when the tournament started but then, finally, we found our form. We had a great game against Belgium and that was the moment when I really thought we had turned the corner. Of course, we had problems with certain players like Illgner and Effenberg. With Effenberg, he made one mistake during the World Cup [a rude gesture to German fans] but then he sold his story to the newspapers. I still thought then, and particularly after the next match against Belgium, that everything was all right. So, if I had been captain I wouldn't have done anything different to Lothar Matthaus. I knew that, in the past, Germany always struggled at the start of a tournament and then got better and better. Compare our two quarter-final games in 1990 and 1994. In 1990, against Czechoslovakia, we were playing very badly when they had a player sent off. We still struggled after that but we were lucky and we won. Against Bulgaria last summer, we struggled but had no luck – which was right, of course. We deserved what we got.

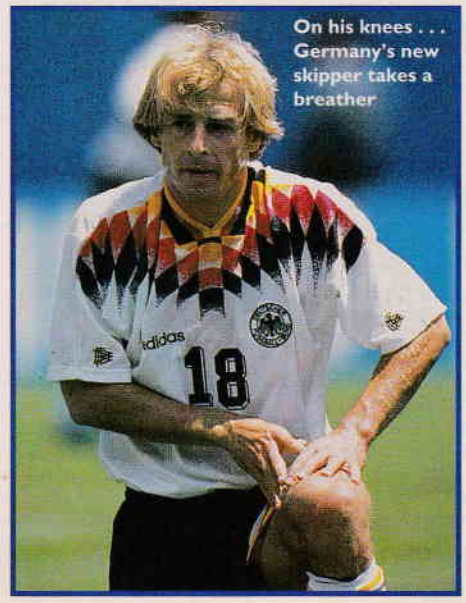
How have footballers changed over the decade you have been a professional?
Over the past 12 or 13 years I have no doubt that players have become a lot more professional – for a mixture of reasons. One is that the media now plays such a big part. That brings more pressure because players are watched by more people. Also, I think players today are much more conscious of their health. Ten or 15 years ago once you had reached the age of 30 you were finished. Today, you can push this limit up to 35, easily. You have players in every country demonstrating the fact. Then, players today are much better able to handle the responsibilities. For example, in Italy and Germany they still have training camps for home games but, in my opinion, they don't need them any more because the players are responsible enough. They know what to do. Once a player makes a mistake you show him and he won't do it again. But then, if he DOES, you send him home. You know, young players come up to me and ask: "Jurgen, what do you eat?" because they want to get their diet right, they want to be responsible, they want to be professional. Players like that don't need to be taken away to training camps. They are sensible enough to be allowed to stay at home the night before a game and come straight to the match the next day, two hours before kick-off.

The late, late show . . . Klinsmann's last-gasp winner for Spurs in the FA Cup quarter-final at Anfield

'The whole atmosphere around Tottenham changed . . . I realised that the FA Cup is more important to the people than the championship'

Is this new breed of player why Trapattoni has had so many problems at Bayern Munich?
No, I wouldn't say so. Trapattoni is a manager who needs to communicate, who needs to express himself. I gather that, the longer the season goes on, the easier he is finding things because he now speaks a bit of German. I'm glad for Trapattoni that he took the risk of going to Bayern. With his reputation there was no reason why he should try to prove himself in a different country, but he did. I really respected him for that. But I also knew there would be a lot of problems for Trapattoni in Munich. As I said earlier, when you go to a different place you have got to take the people the way they are, you cannot change them. Trapattoni is a coach who wants to influence his environment. I think he realised after just the first couple of weeks that this would be impossible in Munich.

Will we ever get Italian players going abroad?
No, first of all because they feel very happy at home in Italy. I only met one player in Italy who thought he would like to try going abroad. I never got the idea anyone else was interested. The fact that countries such as England and Germany are growing financially stronger – and can offer at last the same amount of money as the Italians – won't change things. Any Italian players who did move would find it hard, harder than it was for me, going the other way. Any Italian player who came over to England or to Germany, where the game is a lot faster, could struggle.


On his knees . . . Germany's new skipper takes a breather

Talking about matters English, what does the FA Cup mean to you?
It means a lot but that does not have anything to do with the fact that I am German. It's just the fact that we were not qualified originally for the FA Cup; everyone knows the story of the six points and the Cup ban. Then, suddenly, they decided in December that Tottenham should be given the points back and we were back in the Cup. That's when I started to realise what this FA Cup means for the people in England. I didn't know before. It started with our first game, against a non-league team called Altrincham. The whole atmosphere around Tottenham changed overnight and everyone was talking about the FA Cup. I thought, this means we start with an away game because that's the rule in Germany. That was my first mistake. The second was to think that, OK, we will play at White Hart Lane but no more than a few thousand will come to watch. The next thing, I was being told the game was a sell-out. That's when I said to myself: "There's more to this FA Cup than I had thought!" It was just the same with the next round against Sunderland. I realised that the FA Cup is more important to the people than the championship.

How have you found the change of manager, from Ossie Ardiles to Gerry Francis?
I am sure Ossie Ardiles would still be manager if he had had a bit more luck in certain games, which we lost because of individual mistakes not tactical mistakes. Ossie is a great personality, a manager who always wanted you to enjoy every aspect of the game and, whatever the pressure, always came up with a smile. Gerry Francis is a very strong character and he immediately worked out where we were going wrong and what we needed to do to put things right.

● Our thanks to the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Gate, for the facilities to stage this ESM interview.

Munich cheer festival . . . Ajax players celebrate their draw against Bayern

The dream ticket

The stage looks set for Milan and Ajax to reach what could be a memorable Champions Cup Final. Keir Radnedge reports on the European club cups

THE DREAM Final in the European Champions Cup would be holders against favourites . . . and that is precisely the prospect thrown up by the results of the first legs of the semi-finals.

On the one hand holders Milan snatched a 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the Parc des Princes, Paris; on the other, Ajax Amsterdam had by far the better of a goalless draw away to an injury-weakened Bayern Munich in Germany.

It was Croat forward Zvonimir Boban who produced an injury-time winner for Milan and edged the Italian club towards a record-equalling sixth Champions Cup.

The Final is in Vienna on May 24 and Milan, seeking to match Real Madrid's 29-year-old mark of six titles, are poised to be there. With seven minutes to go, PSG's David Ginola hit the Milan crossbar but in the last seconds a pass from Dejan Savicevic found Boban chasing through the middle. The Croat forged a path into the PSG penalty area and fired home a left-footed shot from 12 yards.

It would be hard to begrudge Milan another success. They have not had an easy time of it.

Last autumn, in the UEFA Champions League, they had a 3-0 victory over Salzburg annulled because a bottle thrown from the crowd struck the Austrians' goalkeeper. Governing body UEFA deducted the points then ordered Milan to play their next two home games well away from home. Coach Fabio Capello's team, despite having to concede their League title to Juventus, still got through.

In Munich, Nwanko Kanu, Clarence Seedorf and Nigerian midfielder Finidi George all had first half chances to give Ajax the lead against a Bayern team missing key players such as Lothar Matthaus, Jean-Pierre Papin and Emil Kostadinov.

Bayern, by contrast, had just one shot at goal in the first 45 minutes. It was different after the break when Mehmet Scholl narrowly failed to connect in front of the Ajax goal, and then Ajax keeper Edwin van der Sar produced good saves from Alexander Zickler and Swiss international Alain Sutter. The second legs are on April 19.

In the UEFA Cup semi-finals, Parma took a big step towards the two-leg final with a 2-1 victory at Bayer Leverkusen. But Juventus, runaway leaders in the Italian League, were held 2-2 by Borussia Dortmund in the first leg and will find it tough to advance. It took a late equaliser from Jurgen Kohler, the Germany defender, after Stefan Reuter and Andreas Moller, both ex-Juventus players, had given Dortmund the lead.

The game was played in Milan because Juventus fans were unhappy with the Delle Alpi stadium in Turin and the club earned far more money in TV rights by switching.

Reuter gave Dortmund the lead in the eighth minute but Roberto Baggio fired in a 28th minute penalty kick for the first equaliser. Moller made it 2-1 for the visitors with a powerful drive from 25 yards in the 72nd minute. As Juventus desperately pressed forward in the closing minutes, Kohler, left unmarked, converted a long cross to secure the 2-2 draw.

In the other semi-final opener, Brazilian Paulo Sergio fired Bayer Leverkusen ahead after 20 minutes against Parma when the Italian defence failed to clear a centre from veteran midfielder Bernd Schuster. But Parma capitalised on two defensive mistakes early in the second half to turn the game around.

In the 48th minute, defender Markus Happe left Dino Baggio alone in the penalty area and the Parma midfielder lifted the ball over Leverkusen goalkeeper Rudiger Vollborn. Five minutes later, Alberto Di Chiara beat Ioan Lupescu on the right and fed Colombian Faustino Asprilla, who scored with goalkeeper Rudiger Vollborn hopelessly out of position.

In the Cup-winners Cup the prospect of an all-English Final and a venue switch from Paris to Wembley receded sharply. Holders Arsenal scored only a narrow 3-2 home win over a classy though vulnerable Sampdoria, while Chelsea froze in Spain and were well beaten 3-0 by Zaragoza.

Chelsea's defeat was accompanied by further fan trouble, though Zaragoza – whose security record is not among the best – appear to have been at fault for selling tickets on the day to hooligans who had travelled in hope.

● BAYER LEVERKUSEN'S European failure proved the last straw for club directors. The following Saturday coach Dragoslav Stepanovic became the second coach ousted in Germany in a week, following Jupp Heynckes' departure from Eintracht Frankfurt.

● A 35-YEAR-OLD father of four died following an attack by rival fans before the FA Cup semi-final between Crystal Palace and Manchester United. The victim, a Palace fan, was struck on the head by a brick as he left a pub in Walsall to board a coach to take him to the match, which finished 2-2 after extra time. The other semi-final saw a surprisingly comfortable victory for Everton, 4-1 over Tottenham.

● MARSEILLE have been put into receivership by a Marseille court with debts estimated at £40million. The receiver has six months to find a new owner but the club now risks enforced relegation to the third division.

● AN IRISH inquiry report suggested rioting by English fans which forced the abandonment of the international against England could have been avoided if the Irish police had been prepared to accept intelligence advice from their British counterparts.

● NIGERIA, who had tried to organize an African boycott of the World Youth Cup after it was reallocated to Qatar, have been expelled from the tournament by FIFA – thus allowing Qatar into the competition.

● JOHN DEEHAN has resigned as manager of Norwich City. Coach Gary Megson now takes over.

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

Made in England

ALL the fuss over England's performance out on the pitch – should Cole have started the game? Is Gazza the saviour of the nation? Should Venables pick more/fewer kids? Should he pick fewer/more veterans? – tended to obscure what staging the 1996 European Championship finals here will really mean in England.

To repeat: in England.

Not some country across the ocean or a plane flight away on the continent of Europe. But in this very country. In London, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Newcastle, Liverpool, Nottingham and Manchester. It will, as tournament director Glen Kirton emphasised in a talk-in organised for the benefit of ESM (the European Sports Magazines group of which *WORLD SOCCER* is the UK member) be a "national affair".

We have become so used to England playing only at Wembley that the prospect of top-level international football all around the country is hard to take on board. But there is a small, though expanding, army of men and women working to bring all that to pass.

To borrow the words of the theme song for the 1992 finals in Sweden, "it's so much more than a game."

Did you know that around 250,000 supporters from abroad are expected to flood into England to watch the matches? Did you know that these additional tourists are expected to spend around £125million?

It's tempting to say, never mind the game, English football is on a winner. Or, as much as the game, the entire country can expect to benefit from this bonanza.

Considering all the problems which have followed in football's wake over the past 20 years, it's long overdue time the game put something back into the nation's pockets in one way or another.

Now, with 400 days to go, Kirton says: "We can stage a memorable tournament, a colourful tournament, efficiently run, enjoyable, safe and secure. We know that the expectations of a tournament in England will be high and we're confident we can match those expectations.

"We want the game's 'homecoming' to be a happy one. Our stadia are first class, our league attendances have been increasing steadily over the past nine years and we have the backing of politicians of all sides, of local authorities and police."

The organisers also have a practical demonstration of support and interest through ticket sales. So far 290,000 tickets have been sold, which means £10.5million in the bank. That does not sound like a public put off by events in Dublin. Indeed, the further the shock of Lansdowne Road is cushioned by time the more satisfied the FA become that it was a one-off. The Irish inquiry report that the Garda rejected English police offers of security assistance would seem to bear that out.

With that in mind, Kirton says: "We are confident of staging the biggest, best and most professionally-run European Championship finals of all time."

England decided in January 1991 to seek hosting rights. The bid was formally delivered to UEFA in November 1991 and was approved on May 6, 1992. Interestingly, it was not until the following November that UEFA decided to double the size of the finals from eight to 16 teams. But – as I first revealed in *WORLD SOCCER* at the time – the prospect of an increase in tournament size had long been on the cards.

All contenders for hosting rights had been asked to submit projections for tournaments of both eight and 16 teams so the FA had no problem stepping up the scope of the event. A second London venue would have been included, ideally, but none existed. Highbury has all the right facilities – except in the most important arena. The pitch itself is not long enough to meet senior international criteria. There is nowhere at all, of course, south of the Thames.

Kirton raiser . . . Euro '96 tournament director Glen Kirton

In the north-west Anfield just gained the vote over Goodison Park. As Kirton agreed, had Goodison been in the south-west of England it would have been a certainty.

Outsiders seeking comparisons with the way the United States organised the 1994 World Cup will find few points of similarity. The very size of the a World Cup and the geographical size of the US meant organising largely devolved to the separate venues on an individual basis. Euro '96, by contrast, is being run by a central committee of 10 with the option to co-opt extra special advisers. A representative of the Football Trust was thus added to the committee and a government representative sits in as observer.

Full-time staff will be mostly provided from within the FA which will fill the gaps within by temporary appointments.

Similarly, just as the FA is organising the staffing internally, so the financing of the event is on a very different basis not only to USA '94 but by comparison with the general trend to 'privatise' big sports events.

Instead, though the FA want to end up with a financial legacy available for the development of English football, it would absorb any losses itself. Kirton again: "The service to the tournament comes before any cash interest."

The ticket sales system has come in for some criticism on the cult radio talk-in, *Six-0-Six*, but it is a vast improvement on previous arrangements.

The lowest price of a ticket is £15 and would-be spectators do NOT have to buy either a travel or tickets package to attend any single match (at least in the first round). However, ticket availability for the Final does depend on package purchase. As Kirton says: "That's a reward for loyalty."

Participating nations have each been guaranteed 7,000 tickets for each and every match, with 11,000 each for the finalists. Every ticket will carry the name of the purchaser and none will be sent out until around three weeks before the start of the finals.

Complaints are inevitable, however, about capacities and ticket sales when fans watching the event on television see that the first two or three rows of seating in just about every stadium are empty ... because international specification for pitch-side advertising boards are higher than domestic limits. Thus the event sponsors will be getting boards which will obstruct the view in the front rows.

It will not be the first time the problem has arisen. Is it naive to ask why UEFA does not institute a policy of fitting the boards to the stadia rather than vice-versa? Why should fans come off second best? Sponsors' contracts come to an end sooner or later. Fans have a lifetime contract with the game.

Talking of fans, inevitably, brings us back to the question of security. There will be no fences, and security personnel will be present in line with recommendations – or instructions – from the various local stadia licensing authorities.

Kirton says: "Everything that can be done, will be done to ensure a safe tournament. We believe that people will want to come to enjoy themselves, not to cause trouble."

We all, most sincerely, hope so.

- DID YOU KNOW?
- Euro '96 anticipates a turnover of £100million with £14million being spent on organisation, to be covered 20 per cent from ticket sales, 10 per cent from commercial undertakings and 10 per cent from television rights.
- Leeds will be the best place to drive. The local authority have promised, as far as is possible, to turn Leeds into a 'cone-free zone' during Euro '96!
- Non-participating countries will each receive a maximum allocation of three per cent of tickets (some 42,000).
- English fans can apply to buy tickets through the FA or the Midland Bank. Foreign (i.e. non-English) fans must apply through their own federations.

Football crazy . . . the Manchester United megastore

Money-spinners are the big winners

FOOTBALL is big business. There are lots of examples.

Manchester United's latest balance sheet reveals that, in 1994, the club earned £26million through merchandising, television, catering and sponsorship yet 'only' £18million through the turnstiles. As Hunter Davies pointed out in a recent TV programme bemoaning the loss of the 'good old days', the club's staffing includes 123 in merchandising, catering and administration compared with 74 on the playing side (43 players, 31 coaching staff).

But United are not alone. It's just that, as a pic, their figures must now be opened up more generally than secretive football clubs have been used to.

Barcelona are taking £18million a year – and rising, fast! – from licensed products being sold through the club's Spain-wide network of shops. Items include all the usual variety of kit and bits-and-pieces and even a plastic plant with blue-and-red leaves. So far 21 shops have been opened but the club's marketing department envisages around 100 eventually, split half-and-half between Catalonia and the rest of Spain.

Then there was the FA's completion of a £5million deal with Carling – ensuring the brewers a sponsorship stake in the domestic game until 1999 through advertising rights at Wembley and a presence at Euro '96 along the way.

Back in Italy, commercial pressures have – amazingly – driven Juventus out of the Stadio delle Alpi in Turin, for European matches at least.

Juve and Torino have long been unhappy with facilities, local authority levies and promotional income arrangements at the stadium. The fans don't like it either, as Juve's attendance average of 7,448 for their home UEFA Cup ties this season demonstrated. Juve believe they have lost around £6million over the past two years through using the delle Alpi and that switching their semi-final home leg against Borussia Dortmund to Milan's Stadio Meazza was the only answer.

They pulled in a capacity 83,000 crowd which delighted the club's business managers as well as TV controllers, who also hate the delle Alpi because of the lack of atmosphere to embellish their broadcasts.

It's very likely that Juventus may stay clear of the delle Alpi when - as is highly probable - they enter the Champions League next season. Champions League contestants have to provide an advert-free stadium so UEFA can decorate it with the promotional paraphernalia of the Champions League sponsors only.

Rights within the delle Alpi, however, were sold by the Turin local authority to a private publicity company *(see page 19)* and, presumably, they will hold out for their own clients' rights.

Whatever happened to all that legendary power of FIAT and the Agnelli family?

Eastern promises

THE contest to host World Cup 2002 is being stepped up on both Japanese and Korean sides.

The Japanese have presented the South American confederation with a Toyota minibus "as a gesture of appreciation for the co-operation and assistance we have been given over the years and to commemorate the long-standing friendship between South America and Japan".

Those were the words of Ken Naguma, Japan FA president, in handing over the minibus at a ceremony in the Japanese embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, where the South American confederation has its headquarters.

Unspoken, of course, was his hope that the co-operation, assistance and friendship would be maintained when it comes down to the all-important vote by FIFA's executive in the middle of next year.

Behind the scenes, the strategical planners are frantically busy. You can expect both contestants to turn up the volume and visibility of their claims later this year in a string of campaign promotions.

Meanwhile, there is still talk of whether the finals could be shared. Seems highly unlikely to me, given the history, but the Japanese have sounded out the Koreans informally about the idea.

The Koreans believe the key to the vote may be found within Europe. I understand they, like the Japanese, have counted the heads of likely opponents and supporters within the FIFA executive and think it could be closer than we all imagined a year or two ago when Japan appeared to have the field virtually to themselves.

Japan remain everyone's clear favourites. But what if Joao Havelange thought the Nobel Peace Prize might come winging his way if North and South Korea could accomplish reunification through the World Cup . . . ?

Europe's date with destiny?

JUNE 20 is being touted as the day European football falls apart. That's when Jean-Marc Bosman's challenge to the transfer system comes up before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Whatever the judgment, don't expect instant revolution either in the matter of transfer mechanics or UEFA's foreign players restrictions.

Any change in the transfer system would need careful consideration, negotiation and gradual implementation. As for the foreigners rule, that is in itself an interim compromise agreed between UEFA and the European Commission and would also be subject to further review and negotiation.

The truth of the matter is that the foreigner restrictions were, whether the big clubs like it or not, obtained by UEFA at the *behest of the national associations* to protect the essentially national characteristics of football.

English clubs hark back to the 1970s and 1980s when they dominated European competition and believe, simplistically, that scrapping the regulations would take them back to those happy days. Wrong. In the 1970s and 1980s Italy, Germany and Spain operated their own tight restrictions on foreign players. If the rules are to be changed, they will change for everybody . . . not just the English.

Gone but not forgotten

GARY LINEKER may have abandoned the J.League in favour of a pundit's career with BBC radio and television but the J.League has not forgotten him.

A picture of Lineker receiving an award from J.League chairman Saburo Kawabuchi adorns the front cover of the first edition of the League's newsletter. Grampus Eight, meanwhile, continue to struggle quite as much without Lineker as they did when he was with them. Certainly he did his bit in promoting the game. The average attendance for J.League matches last season was 19,724 and not very many European leagues can say as much.

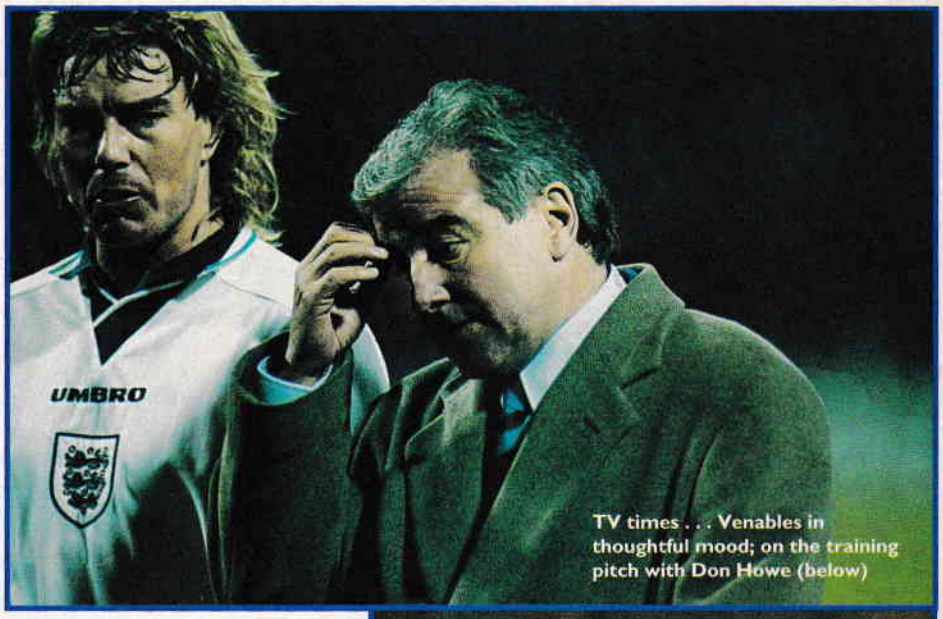
SEPP BLATTER, general secretary of FIFA, is a world champion in his own right. Swiss newspapers, speculating on his interest in moving house to the tax-friendly canton of Appenzell, claim Blatter's annual salary to be around £700,000. That would make him the highest-paid official in world sport. Blatter insists that his interest in a new home is nothing to do with tax. He just like the region. Seems fair enough.

THE rumour factory has been hard at work, producing all manner of projected changes to the Champions League yet again. Barcelona had a neat suggestion: that, to ensure the status of the participating clubs, the competition should be open to League champions from the top-ranked nations (as now) plus former European champions who had finished as League runners- up. I wonder which club they had in mind? My understanding is that it will be a question of status quo next season. Let's have some stability, please.

THERE are, indeed, lots of you out there. We've received around 300 friendly messages courtesy of the Internet all from *WORLD SOCCER* readers anxious that we should cater for their electronic needs. Sorry, as we say, that I can't reply to you all individually, but rest assured the matter is under consideration.

continental drift

With 400 days to go Euro '96 is looming large. Can Terry Venables' side still compete with the best in Europe? Keir Radnedge spoke to the England coach and his technical co-ordinator Don Howe about the state of the nation's game



TV times . . . Venables in thoughtful mood; on the training pitch with Don Howe (below)

WORLD SOCCER: Are you satisfied with the progress so far?

TERRY VENABLES: We have had seven games, discounting the game in Dublin, and I have been particularly pleased with the way things have gone. Against Uruguay we did not play very well. But I think we were just short of winning the game. Obviously if we don't score goals it is really frustrating for everybody because we want to entertain. What we have got is time, which is important. I always believe that, if you have time, then take advantage of it. I think we have always got to get things right at the back. It is no good throwing caution to the wind against the best teams in Europe and the world, otherwise you are going to get punished. You have to be a bit patient. I think our defensive record is sound – not that I am saying that is what it is all about – but I am saying we must really start with not giving goals away. We know we have got younger players waiting to come in and it's most important that there is a sort of hand over period. I feel if you put a lot of young players in, and ask them to sort out themselves, it's very difficult for them. The more experienced players are very important in bringing younger guys along. When the younger players, like Le Saux and Anderton, originally came in, they had experienced players to help. So that it made it more comfortable for them and they were successful. The next stage is to do that again. There is no doubt about it – we have young players with a lot of potential and making them feel good when they come in is what I am trying to achieve. We will only know whether this is being successful when we enter into the tournament in a year's time. I can't say we are successful at the moment. All I am saying is I am not unhappy with our progress.

Is the media pressure intensifying?

DON HOWE: Yes, it has multiplied compared with what it was like in 1982 in Spain, 1986 in Mexico and in 1990 in Italy. At our first training session when Terry had just taken over I have never seen so many photographers. I mean it was like a crowd around the pitch. It was like an amateur football match when you stand around the touchlines. I was amazed – and they have these wonderful telescopic lenses so you are frightened to move. You think I had better not scratch my head because there will be a photograph tomorrow saying he is worried about something. I suppose really that is in the interest of the game. The world wants to read all about the game. On the technical side, major international football is about players coming from midfield, coming from the back. I think that everybody knows that there has been a change in tactics. A lot of teams are playing one player up and then everybody is just coming flooding from midfield, and to get that right you really have to work at it with your players. It is not an easy thing, because sometimes that front player does get isolated. And if you are not getting it right, it looks as though it is defensive. If you looked at Uruguay the other week, they had that great player Fonseca up there by himself. You tended to think if they could have got more players around Fonseca, then they would have given us more problems than what they did, but it is the new fashion of tactics. When it is working and everybody is coming from midfield, it is wonderful – but when it is not working it looks defensive and that's when the criticism comes.

'You just can't win. If you experiment they say we haven't got a consistent side, and if you are consistent, they complain because they want new names to fill newspapers'

TV: If you look at the World Cup finals recently, the most criticised coaches in the whole of the tournament were Arrigo Sacchi and Carlos Alberto. They took this terrific criticism from their own people. But they knew what they were doing. I spoke at length to Carlos. He knew Brazil had this great cavalier approach but for 20 odd years they were getting knocked out by the odd goal. So he went for a disciplined formation with talented players. Italy, too. Yet the two coaches were booed at the World Cup Final when they came out on the field! Well, you say if you cannot get any appreciation when you are winning, is it worth it? And we all say well it's not worth it but I'm afraid it's that drug – we cannot live with the game and we cannot live without it. You just can't win. So the steady approach is the one I am trying. If you change a lot and make experiments they say we haven't got a consistent side, and, if you are consistent, well, they complain because they want new names to fill newspapers. So we have to try to be consistent and then bite the bullet when we are criticised for it.

'We have got to be as slick as some of these foreign teams . . . I don't see us with that old authority in Europe now' TERRY VENABLES

English football is still being criticised for a lack of technical sophistication, isn't it?
TV: We are trying to get it right tactically but it takes a bit of time. I think we are improving.

What about the hooliganism problem?
TV: We have problems but I don't think they just belong to England. We have problems across Europe now. It is not to do with the game but it is to do with people in and around the game. It is no good other sports saying it is following football because if rugby grew bigger, these people could put themselves on the back of rugby too. France have had problems, Germany have had problems. But if you continually take countries out for fear of security problems, in the end we will say, let's not have a European Championship at all. If we cannot control countries' followers let's not have a World Cup, let's not have the Olympic Games. Then we would be in a terrible position because we would be letting the tail wag the dog. We have to say, we are not going to let this wonderful sport be spoiled by the element that is trying to stop it. We must cut this cancer away.

Does the fashion for buying foreign players mean England is not producing enough young skilled players of its own?
TV: I think we have a lot of good young players. But in the Premier League, the clubs look to buy ready-made players because when they get worried about relegation, they think young players can't win for them in the short-term. It's part of Don's job now to look abroad to see whether we can improve our players at a younger age.
DH: It's right to say it has become the fashion to buy a player from abroad. You know what happens in football. If you're at Manchester City and Manchester United buy a player from abroad then you've got to go out and buy yourself a player from abroad because you've got to keep up with the Joneses. Regarding the young players coming through – Ajax have a wonderful youth system, a wonderful youth development system and I've got to say this: it's way beyond what we can do. We've got a school problem – as you know our kids don't finish school until half past three, whereas in Holland they finish at lunchtime. So Ajax can get the kids from the Amsterdam area for the afternoon. But we are bringing them through gradually – players like Andy Cole and Nicky Barmby. We're not doing badly but we can improve obviously. But we have got our own style. You know English football. We do play 100 miles per hour. Our crowds do respond to good football obviously, but mainly they want excitement. They want the ball in the box, they want players in the box fighting for the ball, I think that's why our game, our Premier League, is sold all over the world on television – because its so exciting.

In terms of style, don't we suffer still from the legacy of English clubs being out of Europe for five years?
TV: Yes, the reason Liverpool did well in Europe was because every game, home and away, they picked up something. They learned something every time and they nearly always got to the final or very close to it. So they had a lot of experience and they built it up over many years. You couldn't short-cut that process. So we all lost out. Then the long ball became quite influential and cut out the thinking and imagination.

But Arsenal won the Cup-winners Cup . . . ?
TV: Yes, but Arsenal only did it one way – defending and defending and defending and hoping for a break, which they got. They were never really able to push the advantage at home. They got through by playing away and counter-attacking, like against Auxerre. There's nothing wrong with that as far as I'm concerned but we've got to go on from there. We have got to be as slick as some of these foreign teams. We may win a European competition here and there but I don't see us with that old authority in Europe now.

Is playing at home in 1996 in England as much of an advantage as it's made out?
TV: I think it's been 10 years since a team has won the World Cup or European Championship in their own country so the facts don't really bear it out. You have a large support but sometimes that can work against you. I think Italy found it worked against them in 1990. They had some good games but the further they got the more nervous they got. Our big problem is getting friendly games. The FA has sent faxes and faxes and faxes everywhere to get games but other countries have got their own qualifying matches. I'm sure that next year we'll have them queuing round the corner to come and play us but this year it has been really difficult to get the type of games that put us to the test.

When it does come to Euro '96, which teams should people be aware of?
TV: Croatia, for one. Look through their players and they are mostly playing in Italy and they've got some outstanding ability. Italy themselves are always very talented. I think Germany have had a sticky spell for the first time for many years. I actually felt during the World Cup that they had slipped from the standard they normally show us. Spain I think are a good team. I think Clemente has done a good job. A lot of good teams. But we'll be ready for them.

The young ones . . . Andy Cole (above); Graeme Le Saux (above left); Rob Jones and Steve McManaman (left)

in a class of his own

Miroljub Stojkovic talked to the Yugoslav spearheading Milan's latest Champions Cup challenge

EVEN NOW it is hard to believe that Milan coach Fabio Capello and his team's most gifted player, Dejan Savicevic, have fully resolved the 'mutual misunderstandings' which arose soon after the Montenegrin forward moved to Italy three seasons ago.

The Milan boss had insisted that the trouble with Savicevic was "lack of discipline, consistency and method". But Capello at that time perhaps overlooked the fact that successful 'team technology' was not just about workaholic player-machines, but about flair and individualism too.

During his first Serie A season Yugoslav international Savicevic made just 10 appearances, playing a total of 724 minutes, scoring four goals and assisting in four. He is the first to admit that he became increasingly frustrated and impatient. "I was ready to move, to Marseille, to Spain, to anywhere . . ."

Not many were prepared to argue his case, particularly after his refusal to be a substitute against Anderlecht in a European Champions Cup tie in Novemeber 1993.

Dutch striker Marco Van Basten was one supporter, saying: "I am impressed by what Dejan can do in training. He is special, probably the most skilful player in Europe these days."

President Silvio Berlusconi seemed to be an even more dedicated admirer, saying "I want him to stay with us."

Coach Capello digested the message, helped by the player's own contribution. He improved his work-rate but still found time to exploit a wide range of natural abilities.

If Savicevic had not been Berlusconi's blue-eyed boy, the exiled star would have long been shown the door and offered the chance to display his undoubted talents on another stage.

Dejan's hour finally arrived. After months on the sidelines, injuries gave Savicevic a place in the starting line-up against FC Porto in the Champions League. He responded with an outstanding perfomance in which he helped to create all of Milan's goals in their eventual 3-0 victory.

His chance came again in Athens, when a new era arrived on May 18, 1994, in that memorable Champions Cup Final. Milan, inspired by Savicevic, left Romario, Stoichkov and the others in the shade with a performance of sheer brilliance that will be remembered for many years to come.

Away from the pitch, Savicevic is impulsive, not introverted, as some think, and is a strong family man. When he's not training or playing, he spends most of the time playing with his children or watching TV.

Savicevic, his wife Valentina and their two children, son Vlado (six years) and daughter Tamara (six months), have settled well in Legnano, a small town 12 miles out of Milan, half-way to Milan's training camp at Milanelo.

The Yugoslav is extremely loyal to the family of Misko Jankovic, the man who took him to Buducnost FC, when he was 12 years old. Jankovic was killed in a car crash a few years ago and Savicevic has been looking after his son since then.

Savicevic was one of the stars of The Red Star Belgrade side which won the Champions Cup in 1991, but was then denied the chance to parade his talents at the 1992 European Championship when Yugoslavia were kicked out due to UN sanctions.

Milan's maestro . . . Savicevic strikes in last year's Champions Cup Final

Hands above the rest . . . Boban (left) and Savicevic celebrate a memorable victory in Athens

Now that the sanctions have been lifted, Savicevic is back playing for a rump Yugoslav side consisting of Serb and Montenegrin players. Omitted from the Euro '96 qualifiers, Savicevic and Co. have had to make do with friendlies against Brazil and Argentina (both lost), and Uruguay (won 1-0).

Will history repeat itself this season? Does Savicevic think the 'Rossoneri' can, after keeping a low profile in the Champions League, again reach the last stage?

"To beat Paris Saint Germain and win the Cup will be a very difficult task for Milan," says the 28-year-old. "They are very well balanced and ambitious.

"PSG remind me of Red Star of a few years ago. Apart from their obvious team strengths, their motives seem to be the strongest of the semi-finalists, including Milan. This is the chance of their lives, as it is certain that some of them will leave Paris soon."

Savicevic thinks that Milan's advantage over PSG could be their experience and the fact that the second leg will be played at San Siro.

But he rates Ajax as even stronger than PSG, and says: "They attack with more versatility, using 'side lines' and exploiting space tremendously well.

"They beat us twice in the Champions League, but don't forget that we were out of form then and they were riding high. Mind you, Bayern Munich will cause them a great deal of problems."

Savicevic disagrees with the claim that Milan today are not as strong as they were a few seasons ago, when their three Dutchmen were in command.

"Rijkaard, Van Basten and Gullit were world class, and their influence on Milan's game and results was enormous," he says.

"But I'm afraid that even some of the serious analysts have been forgetting the impact of the others, particularly the Italians, who played with them.

"Tassotti, Costacurta, Maldini and Donadoni were doing a great job then. Franco Baresi was number one then, and even now, at 35, he is the best in his position in the world.

"Also, it must be said that Milan with the Dutchmen never won the European Cup and the domestic title in the same season. We did that last year."

❒ *continued on p16 . . .*

PRO-FILE
DEJAN SAVICEVIC
MILAN AND YUGOSLAVIA

Born September 15, 1966, in Podgorica, Yugoslavia.
Previous clubs Buducnost Titograd (1984-87), Red Star Belgrade (1988-91).
International debut October 29, 1986 v Turkey (Yugoslavia on 4-0 in Split).
International caps 29
International goals 13
Serie A debut September 13, 1992 v Pescara (Milan won 5-4).
Honours Yugoslav League 1990, 1991, Italian League 1993, 1994, Champions Cup 1991 (Red Star Belgrade), 1994 (Milan), World Club Cup 1991 (Red Star Belgrade), European Supercup 1995 (Milan).

dejan's views...

BOTH on the pitch and off it, as the opinions expressed here show, Dejan Savicevic has never been backward about going forward.

ON HIS FREQUENT ABSENCE DUE TO INJURIES:
Many argue my 'inconsistency' and frequent injuries mean that my overall reputation is not as high as it could be. I have been out of the game several times and all the injuries appeared to be connected with the hernia operation I had in 1988. My leg muscles were suffering after that, particularly when I didn't have proper preparations. My game is full of contacts and explosive movements and if I am not 100 per cent fit, I feel enormous pain.

ON HIS PERFORMANCES IN MILAN:
At last, this season I feel comfortable, self-confident and am now sole owner of the number 10 jersey. All the team are in better form now, when it really matters, and I am optimistic we can win something.

ON HIS FUTURE:
I am 28 now and my contract is due to expire next year. If terms are correct I'll sign a new one. Otherwise . . . Milan are a great club, bigger than any other in the world today. And they do not hesitate to strengthen the team. That is why the club have started to negotiate with promising players worldwide. One of them, I believe, is the Liberian striker George Weah, now with Paris SG.

ON HIS BEST FRIEND IN MILAN:
I am very close to Marco Simone and Zvonimir Boban. At the beginning my relations with Boban, who is a Croat, used to be a bit tense. Now we share almost the same view on the tragic civil war in ex-Yugoslavia. Both of us are very much against it and we pray this bloodshed will stop soon.

ON SERIE A:
It's by far the strongest League competition in the world. It is not only about the best players but also about strong tactical organisation. There are no 'easy' opponents here. Last season we drew with Lecce at home and they were relegated. You have to work hard and be totally concentrated to beat any team. Juventus look unstoppable. They keep winning even when they do not perform well. And I like the football Parma play. Young Alessandro Del Piero of Juventus is my favourite rising star. So talented, committed and so mature.

ON LEAGUES IN OTHER COUNTRIES:
The Bundesliga is the second best. I like to watch their matches. I also enjoy some aspects of English Premier League football. But I don't rate the Spanish League highly. There is a substantial gap between top and bottom teams there which is not a benefit for clubs competing in Europe. I consider them tactically weak too. Cruyff made a great mistake allowing Romario and Laudrup to leave Barcelona. They were the players able to make a difference. Real Madrid? They are doing well but I can't see them being strong enough in European competition yet.

ON HIS FAVOURITE PLAYERS:
I liked Michel Platini, but the best player I have ever seen is Diego Maradona. He was brilliant in everything. That kind of football genius appears once in decades.

ON THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL:
Nobody can say with certainty how the game is going to look even in the near future, but it seems to me that black players will play much more prominent roles everywhere, especially at the top level of club football. They are physically superior. In France and England their impact is already significant. A similar trend is now emerging in Italy and Germany. I was very impressed with Cameroon at Italia '90 and the Nigerian team in the 1994 World Cup. With more luck and tactical discipline, an African nation could reach a World Cup Final.

ON BALKAN EXPORTS:
Stoichkov, Kostadinov, Penev, Hagi, Popescu, Mijatovic, Prosinecki, Boban, Jugovic, Mihajlovic, Boksic, Jarni, Jokanovic . . . they're all among the best players in Europe today. The Balkan region always was a source of great talents and I am sure that soon we'll see many new faces from this part of the world playing for the top western European clubs.

ON YUGOSLAV FOOTBALL:
I am concerned that the disintegration of my country will have disastrous consequences on football. The youth education scheme is not as productive as it was before. This means that many years will pass before any team from Yugoslavia reach the same heights as Red Star Belgrade did four years ago. We had a great team who could have won many European trophies if we had stayed together.

ON PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS:
I can't understand the way *France Football* conduct their poll. The journalists, or some of them, seem to be much more 'patriotic' and obsessed with popularity of players instead of their real qualities and achievements.

How could Papin deserve the award in 1991 or Van Basten in 1992? Or who could explain how Massaro 'disappeared' from the top 10 list in 1994? He played very well all year, scoring decisive goals for both Milan and Italy.

My team-mate Paolo Maldini deserved to be the current number one but somehow Hristo Stoichkov won the *France Football* Award despite the fact that Maldini beat him at club and national team levels. I am glad to see that *WORLD SOCCER* did not made the same mistake.

❒ *Dejan Savicevic was talking to Miroljub Stojkovic*

The men who impress Dejan . . . Argentinian legend Diego Maradona (above); team-mate Zvonimir Boban (below); and Milan target George Weah (left)

BY PADDY AGNEW

Spotlight on Gianluca Vialli, on song for Juve, but still out of favour with national coach Arrigo Sacchi

The comeback kid

Back in business . . . Vialli is having a great season for Juventus

YOU COULD call it a story of mutual animosity or misunderstanding. On the other hand, you could just say that it's a case of sheer stubbornness.

The villains of the piece are Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi and Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli. The simple plot concerns Sacchi's two-year-long rejection of the 59-times-capped Vialli.

When Sacchi excluded Vialli from the Italian squad for the European Championship qualifiers against Estonia and Ukraine, it seemed like a definitive barring order. For such time as Sacchi remains in charge of the national team, then Vialli is out, or so it would appear.

This, of course, has been the year of the Vialli comeback. His refound form has not only seen him score 12 league goals but, more importantly, has seen him make a crucial contribution to leaders Juventus. His experience, his constant movement off the ball and his sheer presence have helped fill the gap left by the half-season-long absence of Little Prince Roberto Baggio.

In such a context, Sacchi was under extreme media pressure to reinstate a player who has long been one of Italy's favourite footballing sons. In such a context, Sacchi said "No, thanks" and went his own enigmatic way, giving first caps to Vialli's Juventus attacking partners, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Alessandro Del Piero (against Estonia).

Sacchi did make concessionary remarks during team training in Florence, suggesting that the door is not closed in Vialli's face. Yet his choice of Vialli's two uncapped club-mates smacked of a very definitive rejection.

Tensions between Sacchi and Vialli go back to the last time that he played for Italy, in a 2-1 World Cup qualifying away win against Malta in December 1992. While preparing for that game, Vialli complained to Sacchi's right-hand man, former Milan and Italy star, Carlo Ancelotti, about the coach's methods.

In particular, Vialli is alleged to have complained about Sacchi's insistence that players get out of bed at eight in the morning and that they behave correctly at the dinner table and on the team bus. In other words, no lazing about, no elbows on the table and no practical jokes on the team bus.

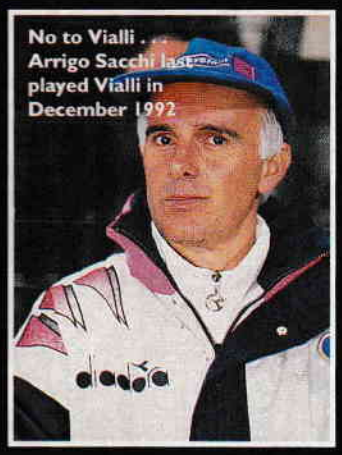
Word of Vialli's remarks found its way to Sacchi's ear and, mirabile dictu, Vialli was omitted for Italy's next game, a friendly against Mexico in February 1993. Injury and wretched form in a season when he had just moved from Sampdoria to Juventus then played their part, keeping Vialli off the pitch and out of the Italian squad for the last two years.

In the meantime, however, Sacchi appeared to further isolate Vialli when suggesting that "certain" players do not have the moral requisites to represent Italy. Sacchi claims that the remarks were generic. Vialli fans, and indeed the player himself, believe that they were directed at him.

The final two acts in this opera-buffo would indicate that Vialli has long given up hope of being recalled to the national team. Following Italy's humiliating 2-1 European Championship defeat by Croatia in Palermo last November, he joked on Italian television: "Well, it didn't go all that badly, did it ? I mean Italy played three games in the last 10 days and won two – against the reserves and against amateur side Arezzo."

That particular remark seemed a more than below the belt dig at Sacchi, because another Vialli criticism of the national coach, and one shared by many Italian commentators, is that he overdoes the preparation, imposes too many schemes in training games and ends up by stifling his players' natural talents.

If the post-Croatia remarks weren't damning enough, Vialli recently went further, telling French soccer magazine *Planete Foot*: "I've had so many problems with Sacchi that I didn't even feel



No to Vialli . . . Arrigo Sacchi last played Vialli in December 1992

myself a part of Italy's recent success. I don't mind telling you that during the World Cup Final in Los Angeles, I supported Brazil."

To all of which, Sacchi merely retorted: "My choice is a precise and technical one which favours a player with a terrific future, Del Piero, and another, Ravanelli, whose good form deserves recognition."

Final word on the Vialli-Italy saga goes to former Golden Boy Gianni Rivera, who commented ironically that until Vialli is made national coach, his chances of playing again for Italy are zero: "You can't stir it up and attack Sacchi and then expect to be named in the squad."

Vialli might well be at the end of the international road but his form this season suggests that there is still a deal of life in battered legs. The player has no doubts, saying recently: "At 30 years of age, I think I'm a better player, I stop to think more . . . I owe a lot to the new Juventus board, to say the least I owe them a Champions Cup and an Italian title . . . and I sincerely believe that we can start by winning the title this year."

Vialli has never been the most technically gifted striker in Italian soccer. His greatest assets have always been as much mental as physical in that, when fit, his presence and his fearlessness in the penalty area make him a royal pain-in-the-ass for any defence.

Of the many goals he has scored in this comeback season, none underlined the point more than the match-winner in a 1-0 away win against Sampdoria, seven minutes from the end of a February game in which the League leaders were being thoroughly outplayed. The move came on the counter attack and represented Vialli's first shot on goal of the night. Following a 40-yard run, Vialli struck a vicious shot between Sampdoria goalkeeper Walter Zenga and his near post.

It was the goal of a player full of self-belief. A goal that owed as much to cool nerves as to soccer technique. In the hectic final run-in of this league season, that cool nerve could yet prove crucial in guiding Juventus to their 23rd title.

Italy's loss could be a Juventus gain.

Ultras turn the season sour

MARCH was the month when Fiorentina fans took to burning their players' cars, Lazio fans threw tomatoes during a training session, and three fans issued a death threat to Brescia defender Giuseppe Baronchelli.

All this and more for the not so convincing reason that their respective sides had lost important games. For once, 'the world's most beautiful championship' was looking rather ugly.

On the evening of March 5, after Brescia had been humiliated 5-0 at home by the revitalised champions Milan, an Alfa Romeo 33 screamed to a halt outside Baronchelli's home.

Out jumped three so-called Brescia fans who informed Baronchelli's mother and father that they "could consider their son a dead man" and that they would furthermore burn down the family butcher's shop in the town.

Baronchelli had provoked such a reaction not only for his part in his team's shortcomings (they are all but a mathematical certainty for relegation) but also because he had allegedly identified three fans who had abused him and attacked him last December. The trio were then served with a season-long barring order.

The same group of so-called fans, or Brescia 'Ultras', had even gone so far as to 'invite' coach Gigi Maifredi to drop Baronchelli from the team. The 'invitation' came from a man who had turned up at the team's hotel on the evening before the Milan game and who, when told that his presence was not desired, went on to damage cars belonging to two players, Stefano Bonometti and Marco Schenardi.

The Baronchelli death threat was allegedly carried out by 27-year-old Gianfranco D'Amico, who told *Gazzetta Dello Sport*: "I went to Baronchelli's house, where I found his father and mother and I told them that I would burn down their shop and do something to their son. Perhaps I exaggerated, but I'm only sorry because I said those things to his parents, I wanted to frighten Baronchelli, not them."

Mr. D'Amico is currently helping magistrates with their ongoing inquiry.

If Brescia fans were bad, those from Fiorentina were hardly much better. After the team had been humiliated 8-2 by Lazio on the same Sunday, unknown 'fans' burnt a car owned by defender Gianluca Luppi, one of those who had featured in the rout. The fire was so 'successful' that it damaged two other cars parked nearby and at one stage threatened to burn down the condominium in which Luppi, his wife and two children live.

This time, nobody stepped forward to assume responsibility for the attack, but police, Fiorentina officials and players alike had little doubt that the incident had been provoked by fans, a point underlined by their Argentinian forward, Gabriel Batistuta: "This time it was Gianluca, the next time it could be any of us," he said. "This was done by [Fiorentina] fans, I'm certain of it and if the police want to catch them, I'm sure they can."

Investigations into this incident, too, are still going on but, in the meantime, Luppi has moved his family out of Florence. Having threatened not to play in the following Sunday's 1-1 home draw with Reggiana, he reconsidered and decided that his best response to the violent attack would be to play, after all.

Nor did that Lazio win against Fiorentina guarantee Lazio immunity from fan disorder. Following their UEFA Cup quarter-final elimination by Borussia Dortmund (with the very last kick of the two-leg tie), Lazio returned to their Tor Di Quinto training ground to find fans howling disapproval, in

Ultra threats . . . Brescia defender Baronchelli

language far from parliamentary. Angry words gave way to stones and tomatoes and, in the end, coach Zdenek Zeman had no option but to suspend the training session and send the players home while he bravely attempted to reason with the fans.

Not that his reasonable response cooled the temperature. A police escort was required to enable the players to leave.

Lazio's recent form had indeed been disappointing. Not only had they been knocked out of the UEFA Cup but they had also lost their Italian Cup semi-final first leg 1-0 to Juventus while they inexplicably converted a half-time 2-0 lead into a 3-2 defeat away to Napoli in a League match.

Championship, UEFA and Italian Cup dreams all appear to have been ruined in a difficult March fortnight. Not that such considerations justify the fans but they do explain the resigned tones of Lazio's experienced defender, Cristian Bergodi, who commented: "In the six years that I've been at Lazio, we get on average two incidents like this per season."

The playing squad, too, showed that the defeats and the troubles had not unduly upset them by turning out to defeat Genoa 4-0 at home on the following Sunday. News, one week later, that Paul Gascoigne should be fit to play out the last two months of the season may also sweeten the currently poisoned atmosphere in and around Tor Di Quinto.

That 4-0 defeat by Lazio prompted Genoa coach Pippo Marchioro's second sacking this season. He started off the year in charge of Reggiana but parted with them last October, only to find employment with Genoa a month later.

Youth team coach Claudio Maselli, who replaces Marchioro, finds himself in a familiar situation. He took over in March two years ago at a time when, as now, the team seemed relegation bound.

On that occasion, Maselli relieved Gigi Maifredi of the job and did well to restore team morale and ensure Serie A survival in difficult circumstances. This time the circumstances are, if anything, even more forbidding.

Genoa President Aldo Spinelli now looks as if he will do for Italian soccer what Atletico Madrid boss Jesus Gil has done for the coaching classes in Spain by ensuring a rapid turnover. Maselli is the twelth coach employed in Spinelli's 10-season ownership of Genoa.

While the likes of Brescia and Genoa struggle with relegation worries, leaders (and still the side most likely to win the title) Juventus appear to have only box-office worries.

For their UEFA Cup semi-final home tie against Borussia Dortmund, Juventus took the highly unusual step of deserting Turin, opting instead to play the game at San Siro in Milan.

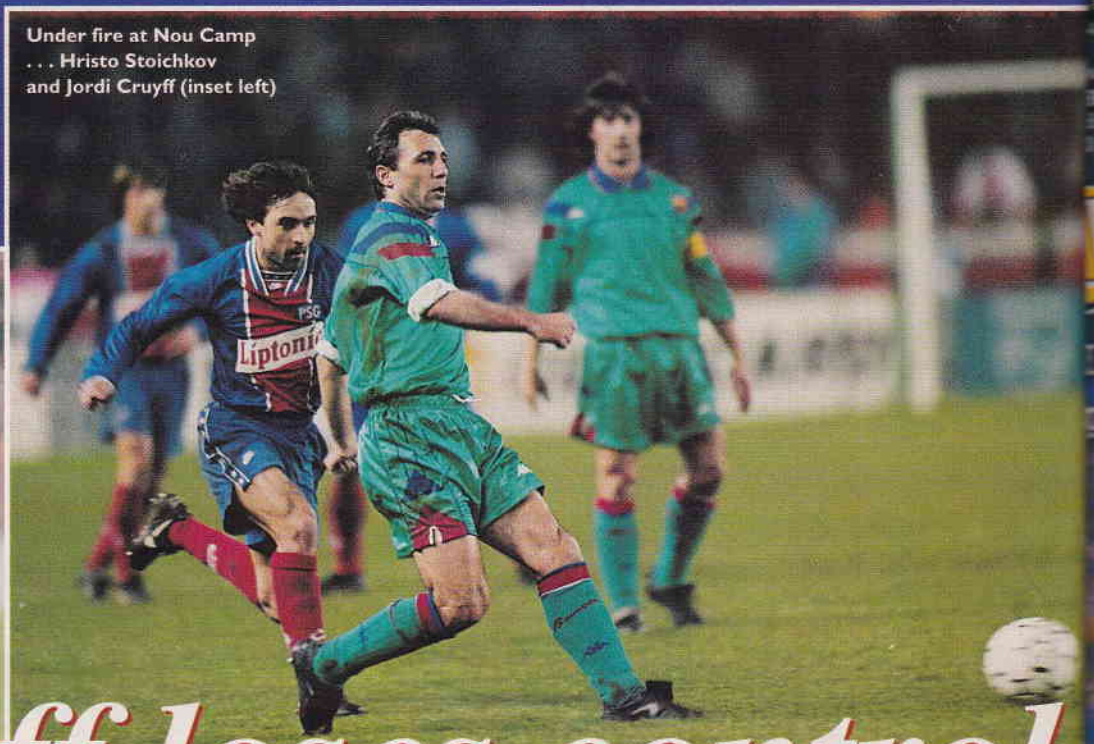
The problem with Turin's Stadio Delle Alpi, purpose built for the 1990 World Cup, concerns Acqua Marcia, the builders. Part of the original contract between Acqua Marcia and Turin City Council involved the concession of stadium advertising rights to the company who are, in effect, the administrators of the ground.

In real terms, this meant that Acqua Marcia claimed that 75 per cent of the stadium advertising income generated by the UEFA Cup semi-final was due to them. For Juventus, this meant a loss in excess of $1million for this one game, while the club estimate losses of nearly $6million-worth of advertising revenue to Acqua Marcia this season alone.

The decision to move to Milan looks, in the short term at least, a good one. By playing at San Siro, Juventus earn an extra million dollars in advertising revenue, while they sacrifice nothing by way of lost home support. Three weeks before the game, a capacity 83,000 attendance was assured.

As Federation President Antonio Mataresse pointed out: "Juventus belongs not just to Turin but to all Italy."

BY GRAHAM TURNER



Under fire at Nou Camp . . . Hristo Stoichkov and Jordi Cruyff (inset left)

Cruyff loses control

Out of the Champions Cup. Public rows with Hristo Stoichkov. Mounting criticism of son Jordi. The problems are piling up for Johan Cruyff at Barcelona and the seven-year itch is getting itchier by the day . . .

JOHAN CRUYFF: "Should I stay or should I go?" Hristo Stoichkov: "Should I cool it or should I blow?" The big-wigs at Barcelona are churning out an extended version of the old classic by The Clash. How appropriate.

The personality clash between the Dutch master and the Bulgar bootman has been generating sparks for four years. Mixing metaphors, the two-week dressing-room ban imposed by Cruyff on Stoichkov was just the visible tip of a large, very cold iceberg.

The cold war has prompted Hristo to join the list of star players who have screamed "I can't stand Cruyff any more". The bottom line is that the team who, according to the world's national managers assembled in Lisbon a few weeks ago, had three of the globe's four best footballers – Romario, Stoichkov and Hagi – could be completely dismantled by the end of the season.

At one stage, Cruyff admitted "I have lost control of the situation" and announced "It is 95 per cent certain that I will not continue next season." Stoichkov is still being courted by Bayern Munich and Internazionale.

European elimination by Paris Saint-Germain did not work wonders for an atmosphere at Nou Camp that Cruyff bitterly described as "incomprehensibly pessimistic". The Champions League quarter-final had transmitted one depressing message loud and clear to Catalan fans. PSG were superior.

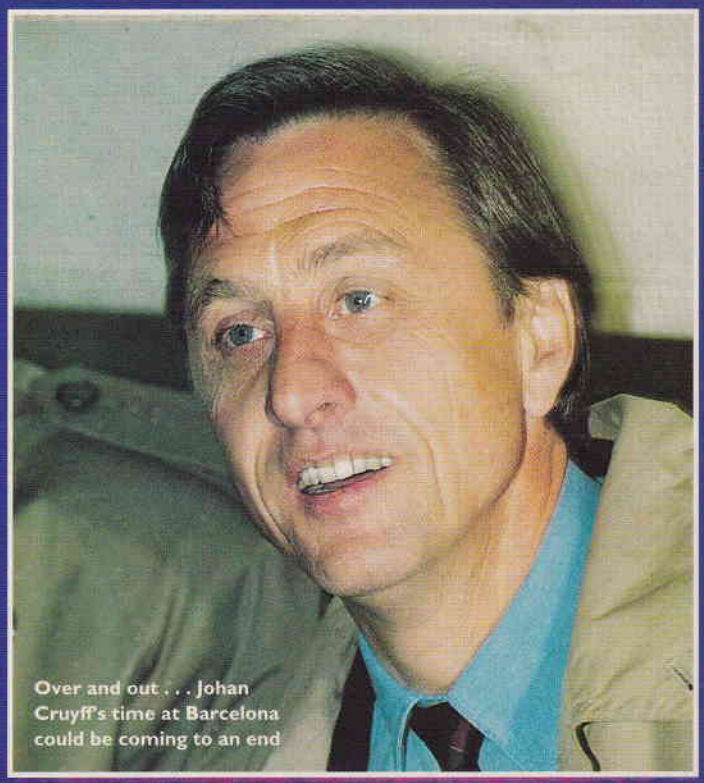
The lucky 0-0 home draw with Valencia four days later prompted Cruyff to praise "a good team performance" but left Barcelona to contemplate a damning statistic. The side who averaged 2.39 goals per game last season now offered 1.65 – by far the lowest figure during the seven-year Cruyff regime.

Hence his seven-year itch and general disenchantment with a side no longer producing the old fantasy football.

Then there was Jordi. If there's one subject guaranteed to make Cruyff senior blow his cool, it is criticism of his son or son-in-law, the third-string goalkeeper Mariano Angoy. Suddenly some 50,000 voices were jeering the young Cruyff every time he entered or left the field at Nou Camp.

On being substituted during the home game against Zaragoza, Jordi plunged into the tunnel at such high speed that dad was moved to comment: "I hope he hasn't lost his bottle."

When a local paper alleged that Jordi



Over and out . . . Johan Cruyff's time at Barcelona could be coming to an end

had demanded £500,000 a year for a new contract, paternal fuses started popping. Denials all round, but there was the admission that the club's standard 'image' contract might give them back-door access to use of the hallowed Cruyff trademark . . .

Stoichkov dropped his smoke-bomb into this wasps' nest. Planen Vaokov, a Bulgarian reporter sent to Barcelona to cover the World Indoor Athletics Championships, collared him on the morning after the 2-0 defeat by Atletico Madrid and a very tasty interview duly appeared in *Standart*. Hristo firstly claimed it had been invented, then blamed a bad translation into Spanish.

"Cruyff is determined to put Jordi into the first team at any price," said Stoichkov, according to the interview. "His qualities as a footballer are very dubious or at least are not up to Barcelona standards. Our problems with Cruyff's relatives started last summer when the Champions League money was being distributed."

Other succulent morsels included "without me, Bakero and Koeman, even Maritza Plovdiv [currently in the Bulgarian Second Division] would beat Barcelona without breaking sweat, and it would cost the club £30million to build a new team."

Stoichkov's criticism of new signings such as Eskurza, Escaich and Jose Mari and his remark that "my brother plays better than some people here", hardly endeared him to a group of team-mates already exasperated by his lack of solidarity.

One denies grabbing him by the throat, another denies shoving him into his locker. Nobody, however, denies his public comments. "Coward," said Eskurza. "He sells one image to the public," snapped Jose Mari, "but the one we see in the dressing-room is very different."

"I think we have won four Leagues and a European Cup with 11 players," marked Guardiola, and Koeman concluded: "He has no future at this club."

They were disappointed when Cruyff punished Stoichkov with only a two-week ban from Nou Camp. One week, in any case, would have been spent with the Bulgarian national team, and he missed only the 0-0 draw with Valencia.

Cruyff, however, is no believer in amputating noses to spite faces. With the scoring statistics to hand, he was well aware that Stoichkov was one of his few remaining aces in a hand he will have to play with great finesse if he is to outpoint Real Madrid.

Watch this space . . .

● SPAIN drew 1-1 with Belgium in their latest European Championship Group Two qualifier and now seem certain to qualify for the finals in England in 1996.

Spain scored first through Althletic Bilbao's Julen Guerrero , but Belgium equalised a minute later through Marc Degrysse.

● REAL MADRID maintained their lead at the top of the table despite a 0-0 draw away at lowly Compostela.

Tosh set for Deportivo

DEPORTIVO'S president, Augusto Cesar Lendoiro, has confirmed that John Toshack will take over from Arsenio Iglesias at the Galician club next season.

Arsenio, 64, has been criticised so severely for conservative tactics that he tendered his resignation in the New Year. Lendoiro and the players persuaded him to see out the campaign.

Toshack, 46, was dismissed by Real Sociedad last November. He takes over one of the oldest squads in the First Division and has four months to restructure the squad at a club he feels is ready to win major titles.

● **RONALD KOEMAN used the occasion of his 32nd birthday to announce that he will end his six-year relationship with Barcelona at the end of the season.**

The Dutch defender will go down in the club's history as the man who struck the free-kick which won the 1992 Champions Cup final at Wembley, having already lifted the same trophy in 1988 with PSV.

Apart from amassing 17 titles, he has gained renown for squeezing life out of a dead ball. Since joining Barcelona in the summer of 1989 he has scored 82 goals, only nine of which have been derived from open play. The rest have been 20 free-kicks and 53 penalties.

Koeman seems set to join his father and his brother Erwin back at his first club, Groningen. He retired from international football after the World Cup, having won 77 caps for Holland, and now says he wants to enjoy his last year or two of football without all the strains and pressures endemic to big clubs like Barcelona.

● **ALBACETE made Cup history and in the process destroyed Atletico Madrid's last forlorn dreams of a return to European football next season.**

After drawing the first leg of the Copa del Rey quarter-finals 1-1 in the Manzanares, Alfio Basile's side travelled to La Mancha backed by an impressive League run and determined to tilt at every visible windmill. But they were beaten 1-0.

Atletico had defender Juanma Lopez sent off in the 70th minute, and a goal six minutes from time by Nenad Bjelica put Benito Floro's side into the semi-finals for the first time in the club's history.

The draw for the semi-finals (first leg May 31, return June 14) is Sporting Gijon v Deportivo La Coruna and Valencia v Albacete.

● **TWO recent managerial changes, at Valladolid and Bilbao, had been brewing for some time.**

Pepe More, the man who inherited the Valladolid bench when Victor Esparrago was given the push back in November, was ousted after the 4-1 home defeat by Tenerife. Bilbao's Javier Irureta had been swimming against a tide of criticism since the start of the season, accused of over-cautious tactics. His bacon was temporarily saved by UEFA Cup victory over Newcastle, only for Parma to deliver the knockout blow in the next round.

Dreams of renewing former glories in the Copa del Rey were rudely shattered by the 3-0 quarter-final defeat by Deportivo, and fans at San Mames were exasperated at having to put their clocks forward without having seen a home win since December 11.

With Davor Suker injured, a dejected Sevilla side limped into 'The Cathedral' with a winger and a prayer and emerged surprised at the ease of their 2-0 win.

On the following morning Irureta tendered his resignation. Reserve team coach Jose Maria Amorrortu has been drafted in for the rest of the season.

By this time Mariano Garcia Remon had been relieved of his duties at Sporting Gijon and replaced by Carlos Garcia Cuervo.

● **LOGRONES fans are fed up with jokes about their team, the tail-enders who finished March with one win to their credit.**

So much so that a group of local businessmen made a not-so-polite inquiry to club president Marcos Eguizabal, about the possible value of his 87.5 per cent shareholding.

Amount: £8million. "Don't call us," was the reply . . .

Five-ton Buyo

QUESTION: Who is driving Spain's second-string goalkeeper stark staring bonkers?

Answer: 37-year-old Real Madrid veteran Francisco Buyo.

Santiago Canizares travelled to the World Cup as understudy and, indeed, stood in for the suspended Andoni Zubizarreta in the opening game against Korea. 'Cani' had just signed for Real Madrid from Celta on the understanding that Buyo was about to be pensioned off.

Since then he has been forced to watch from the bench while the illustrious OAP has looked as lively as ever, and there was a hint of smoke around the ears when 'Paco' announced he intends to carry on for another five years.

The clean sheet against Espanyol came in Buyo's 500th First Division appearance. He overhauled the record of 479, set by the Gijon midfielder Joaquin, last October.

Since his First Division debut for Sevilla against Zaragoza in September 1980, Paco has had a chequered career. His bloomers have been erased by spells of such brilliance that demands for his recall to the national team have become a hardly perennial for a succession of coaches.

Strangely, the first of his seven international caps was won in December 1983 in the famous – infamous if you're Dutch – 12-1 win over Malta that earned Spain a place in the 1984 European Championships. His last appearance was in January 1992, as sub in a friendly against Portugal.

Buyo appeared on the Mallorca team-sheet five times in 1975-76 when they were in the Third Division, and spent part of 1978-79 on loan to Huesca in Division 2B from his local club, Deportivo.

In four seasons with La Coruna he made 122 appearances in the Second Division before moving to Sevilla – and the First Division – in 1980. By 1986 he had amassed 199 games and performed well enough for Real Madrid to sign him. In nine seasons he has now reached the five-ton mark.

500 and counting . . . Real Madrid's Francisco Buyo

Bernd offering

Bernd Schuster is still delivering the goods for Bayer Leverkusen at the age of 36. Arthur Rotmil reports how Bernd bounced back in the Bundesliga

BERND SCHUSTER once vowed that he would never return to German football. Now, at 36, he is team captain and midfield general leading unfashionable Bayer Leverkusen to UEFA Cup glory.

The impact of Leverkusen's stunning, Schuster-inspired 5-1 home win over hitherto unbeaten French League leaders Nantes in the quarter-final reverberated around Europe.

Now the works team from the pharmaceutical factory have a great chance to reach the final of the competition they won back in 1988. And the vastly experienced Schuster continues to receive the top average marks among the 23 players Bayer have used so far this season.

After 13 successful years in Spain, where he played for Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid, Schuster returned to Germany 18 months ago.

He was forgiven his often derogatory comments about FA officials, the media and German football in general, but nobody could foresee that the one-time playboy and rebel, arbitrarily consigned to the ranks of pensioners, would make quite such an impact on his return.

In Leverkusen, where the average gates are a relatively modest 20,000, the fans are astounded at his undiminished physical powers, resilience and will to win, allied to superb technique.

Uniquely, three of Schuster's rare goals took the first three places in the Bundesliga Goal of the Year 1994 poll, including an amazing shot from nearly 50 metres that beat Frankfurt's international keeper, Andy Kopke.

Now experts and the public are clamouring for Schuster's restoration to the national side. Leading journalists have named him the best midfielder in the League, jointly with Andy Moller, and insist that Schuster, like wine, is getting better with age.

Schuster claims: "I have thought about it and certainly I am ready. But Berti Vogts is building a squad for the European Championship finals in 1996 and I am not getting any younger."

Vogts, however, says: "Bernd is exactly the type of player we need. If I could only be sure that he can cope with the tough programme of three hard matches in eight days at the Euro finals."

Schuster gained only 21 caps before he walked out on the national squad 11 years ago. While the debates continue he is concentrating his efforts on his club's quest for European glory.

He says: "We have a marvellous mixture of youth and experience, of technicians and fighters.

"I was delighted when Rudi Voller joined us this season. I never thought that we'd be playing together again, and that is a bonus."

Voller, who ended his international career at the 1994 World Cup, quit Marseille when the club were forcibly demoted to the Second Division, and returned to the Bundesliga after seven years abroad.

He is now nearly 35, and enjoying a new lease of life at Leverkusen, hoping to add another trophy to this collection.

Schuster says he is not setting any "closing" dates, but adds: "Let's just say that this is not my last season."

And Leverkusen's delighted team manager, Dragoslav Stepanovic, adds with a chuckle: "The way Bernd is playing, he could go on for ever."

Golden oldie . . . Bayer Leverkusen's Bernd Schuster

Midfield maestro . . . Schuster has been a revelation this season

Austria

FK looking OK

IMPROVED standards of play, increased attendances and a tight title race combined to create an aura of optimism when the Austrian championship resumed after the winter break.

The championship is likely to be decided between four clubs: Viennese giants FK Austria and Rapid, and two 'provincials', Austria Salzburg and FC Tirol Innsbruck.

The leaders and favourites are FK Austria, whose controversial manager, the German Egon Coordes, has successfully rebuilt a relatively small squad and exceeded all expectations.

The once moody and inconsistent outfit have been converted into a fighting unit, but do not neglect technical refinements.

For the second half of the season Coordes strengthened the ranks with the acquisition of Russian international defender Rashid Rachimov, a move which has created problems because FK now have five foreigners and only three can be used at any one time. However, one, the Lithuanian Arminas Narbekovas, is hoping to become an Austrian citizen.

Despite the much publicised rows with the media the club are hoping to bind Coordes to a long-term contract. Their only condition is not the winning of the title, but his acceptance of the necessary economies within the club's structure.

Coordes has until mid-April to decide whether he wants to remain with FK Austria.

FK's main title rivals, Austria Salzburg, have shored up their title bid by signing a Croatian midfielder, Dean Racunica, while Tirol are banking on two former players from the German Bundesliga, Harald Cerny and Sammy Sane.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Germany

Werder set for top spot

With Dortmund distracted by the UEFA Cup, Werder Bremen are the hot tip for the title

OTTO REHHAGEL may well lead Werder Bremen to the championship this season, even though he has signed a contract to coach Bayern Munich next term.

Favourites Borussia Dortmund have consistently, or rather inconsistently, dropped points and allowed Rehhagel's men to catch up.

Dortmund were also distracted by their progress into the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup, while Werder, knocked out of the Cup-winners Cup back in November, could concentrate on the Bundesliga.

The team had problems in the first half of the season, yet held on to second place. Top striker Wynton Rufer left for Japan, Frank Neubarth was erratic, Bernd Hobsch was convalescing and the Russian Vladimir Bestshastnich was still trying to settle in.

At least the newcomers fulfilled expectations, a testimony to Rehhagel's skills on the transfer market. Egyptian international Hany Ramzy, who completed his soccer education with Xamax Neuchatel in Switzerland, has become a pillar in defence.

Former international Michael Schulz, hired from Dortmund, is another valuable back-row man, while young Bestshastnich is on the way to becoming Werder's best forward.

But Bremen's strength is above all their teamwork. Internationals Mario Basler and the capricious Austrian Andy Herzog control the midfield, and keeper Oliver Reck has made it into the national squad at the age of 30.

Werder's next coach will be Dutchman Aad de Mos, 47, who has been successful at all his clubs, but also has had problems nearly everywhere.

He led Ajax to the Dutch championship in 1983, but was fired in 1985. He joined KV Mechelen in Belgium, and took them to League and Cup and the 1988 Cup-winners Cup.

Between 1990 and 1992 de Mos managed Anderlecht and was again a champion and Cup-winner. He then moved on to PSV Eindhoven, who sacked him in 1994 because of the club's failure in European competition.

Three out of Germany's four European contenders progressed into the semi-finals. The only fallers were Eintracht Frankfurt, against UEFA Cup favourites Juventus. In the same competition Borussia Dortmund delighted their followers with a dramatic triumph over Lazio, thanks to a goal in injury time by Karlheinz Riedle.

Bayer Leverkusen demolished French League leaders Nantes 5-1 in the home leg, making the return a formality. Yet Leverkusen were deep in crisis as apparently all players, with the exception of the veterans Rudi Voller and Bernd Schuster *(see profile, left)*, oppose team boss Dragoslav Stepanovic. Certainly Bayer's form in League matches has been catastrophic.

In the Champions Cup, Bayern Munich did German football proud after being ravaged by injury and held at home to a goalless draw by IFK Gothenburg. They travelled to Sweden in subdued mood, and lost keeper Sven Scheuer, sent off for a professional foul after 20 minutes.

But the 10 men raced into a 2-0 lead, and though pegged back to 2-2, they went through on away goals.

The national team's friendly against Spain, described in the German media as "technically one of the four best sides in Europe", ended 0-0 in Jerez, but the Germans can be well pleased with the result.

They were without Matthaus, Sammer, Kohler, Reuter and Berthold in defence, Strunz and Ziege in midfield, and striker Riedle.

The experimental formation displayed more fighting spirit than technical proficiency, but at least 'problem boy' Andy Moller impressed with total engagement.

He said: "This may signal a new start for me. We could all leave the pitch with our heads held high."

Sadly the individual skill of some Germans left a lot to be desired compared with the nimble Spaniards.

Only five players seem certain of a regular place: Sammer as libero, Kohler and Helmer as man-markers, Moller as orchestrator, and Klinsmann as striker, and captain in the absence of the injured Matthaus.

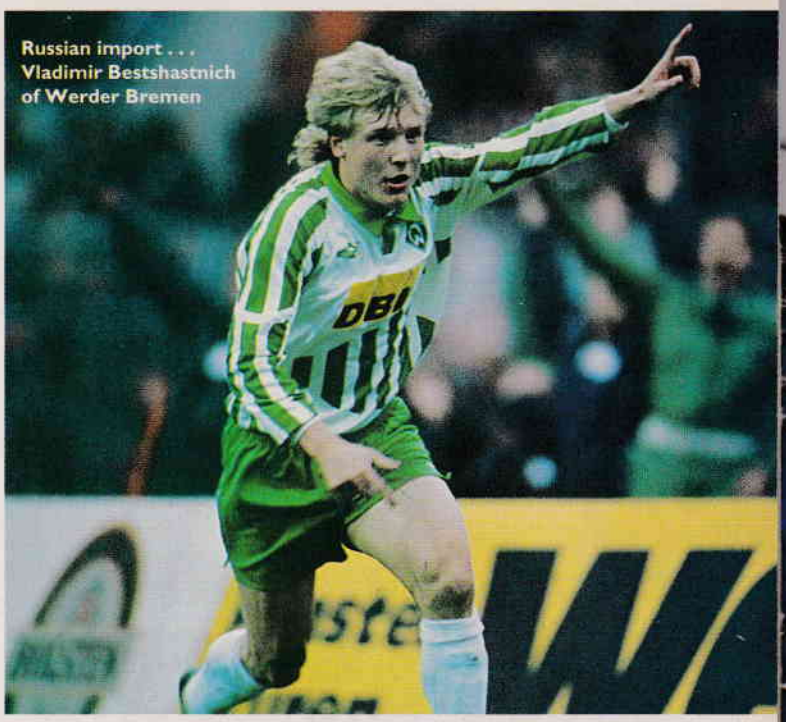
In midfield, Basler appears to have taken over from Hassler, whose form has steadily declined since his great show at the1992 European Championships.

Team boss Berti Vogts tried his 30th and 31st debutants, Steffen Freund (Dortmund) and Marcus Babbel (Bayern Munich) in Jerez.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

● VFB STUTTGART have signed Bulgarian international midfielder Krasimir Balakov from Portugal's Sporting Lisbon for a fee in the region of £1million. The 29-year-old midfielder is seen as a replacement for Brazilian Carlos Dunga, who is leaving Stuttgart at the end of the season.

● NATIONAL captain Jurgen Klinsmann scored both goals in Germany's 2-0 victory over Georgia in their latest Euro Championship qualifier.



Russian import . . . Vladimir Bestshastnich of Werder Bremen

Switzerland

Subiat strikes

SWISS football restarted with the play-offs, the top eight clubs having taken half their points total from the qualifying stage with them.

Record champions Grasshopper (22 titles) began like a house on fire and were five points clear after just two rounds. They opened with a 4-1 win over Luzern, thanks to a hat-trick from the Argentinian-born striker Nestor Subiat.

The 'Hoppers' lost international midfielder Thomas Bickel to Japan, but his replacement, Tomasz Rzasa, a Polish Under-21 international, has already made a good impression.

Sion, tipped as Grasshopper's main rivals, stuttered at the start. The departure of experienced sweeper Alain Geiger to Japan forced the club to hire Heinz Moser from Young Boys Bern. In addition Ahmed Quattara from Abidjan (Ivory Coast) was engaged to keep the attack sharp.

Luzern took on the Indonesian Yulianto Kurniawan, only 18, from Italy's Sampdoria.

The only German in the championship pool, Steffen Karl of FC Sion, failed a trial period at Manchester City but is being wooed by several Bundesliga clubs.

The title challenge of Xamax Neutchatel has not been helped by the row between team boss Gilbert Gress and the Bulgarian World Cup libero, Trifon Ivanov.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

● ILIJA PETKOVIC resigned as coach of Servette following a string of poor results which have left the champions struggling for First Division survival in the play-offs. Servette hope to secure the services of Bernard Challandes, currently with Young Boys Bern, as coach next season.

Petkovic's departure followed FC Zurich's sacking of English coach Bob Houghton after a run of disappointing results in the First Division play-offs.

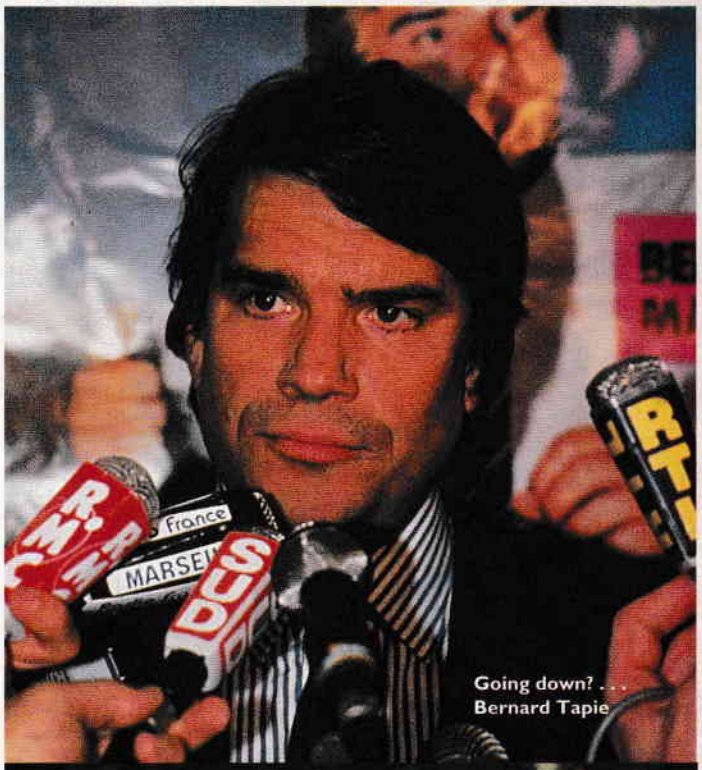
● STAPHANE CHAPUISAT, the Swiss international playing in Germany for Borussia Dortmund, has been named as Swiss Footballer of the Year. However, the 26-year-old striker will be out of action for at least six months after injuring ligaments in his right knee.

Swiss on a roll . . . Grasshopper's Nestor Subiat

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Man out of time?

Bernard Tapie has been run out of football and politics. Now he's fast running out of friends and luck. Has the Teflon man finally come unstuck?



Going down? . . . Bernard Tapie

On the up . . . PSG's David Ginola

BERNARD 'TEFLON' TAPIE *(nothing* sticks) has wriggled out of more close scrapes than Harry Houdini. But certainly it looked, during the trial at Valenciennes, that his goose is cooked.

The Mayor of Bethune, Jacques Mellick MP admitted that he had been lying on the previous day, when he gave Tapie an alibi for the notorious Valenciennes-Marseille game in 1993.

Mellick, who had said Tapie had been with him in his office at the time, was put on the spot when Mellick's female aide testified that he made her lie about that fictitious visit.

Tapie, in character, has been shouting and abusing people in court, but there seems to be a law of diminishing returns between the noise he has made and the extent of his guilt. Can he ultimately wriggle free yet again?

With the support of the increasingly discredited President Francois Mitterand, he has, after all, done it often enough before.

But to describe Mellick's exposure as no more than 'a passing incident' seemed a little rich, even for Tapie.

David Ginola's glorious form in Paris Saint-Germain's hugely well-earned win against Barcelona, at Parc des Princes, in retrospect cast doubt on national coach Aime Jacquet's original choice of Eric Cantona as captain. A choice which made it inevitable, given the stand-off between the two players, that Ginola would be excluded from the national side.

Ginola, made a sad scapegoat for France's astonishing elimination from the 1994 World Cup, continued to show, with his club, that he was far and away one of the best players in France, and arguably one of the best attackers in Europe.

He has not had the easiest of careers. When turned down by his local club, Nice, he found fame and fortune initially along the coast at Toulon. And in that city, in an Under-21 tournament, playing for a scratch France team containing few first-choice players, he outshone even the young Paul Gascoigne, and established his credentials as a future international.

Subsequent transfers did him no favours. He went to the doomed Matra Racing Club and left, after the collapse, for far from wealthy Brest in Britanny. For so many years Brest had been wary of entering the top division, because they simply did not have the economic clout to stay there.

But Brest turned out to be an ideal spot for Ginola to rebuild his career; which has certainly flourished with PSG.

Auxerre surprisingly and disappointingly went out to Arsenal in the Cup-winners Cup, after doing so well at Highbury.

Two bad moments in defence in the return leg, that piece of confusion between Verlaat and Mahe which gave Wright the ball, a positional error by the young third-choice goalkeeper, Cool, when Wright's shot came curling in; and Auxerre were out.

But those who saw both games will hardly feel that justice was done, even if the astonishing Guy Roux, 34 years at Auxerre and still going wonderfully strong, took it like the gentleman he is.

For all their long unbeaten run in the League, it has to be said that Nantes can hardly dispute the prevalence of PSG as our top club. Even if there may have been mitigating circumstances about the alarming 5-1 defeat by Bayer Leverkusen in the UEFA Cup.

No excuse for having a man sent off; but with so many goalkeepers injured. Nantes, in Germany, would have envied Auxerre for the fact that they, at least, could turn to their third choice.

As for PSG, it seemed strange and sad that, on the brink of their semi-final Champion Cup matches against Milan, they should be aware that the star of their dynamic attack, George Weah, is bound for San Siro at the end of this season. A surely impossible position for the club, the player, for everyone.

Again, one must ask how it is that UEFA sanctions, or at least takes no sanctions against, transfers which are so prematurely concluded, at such a delicate time.

Didier Deschamps is at long last back in action, and doing so well for a Juventus team who at the present look sure to regain the Italian championship.

Deschamps played for Juve in the UEFA Cup last September, in Bulgaria, only to tear an achilles tendon in training.

After 24 weeks he came back, in another UEFA Cup game, this time versus Eintracht Frankfurt, after just a couple of League matches. Since then, he has come on apace, his old skills and thrust returning with full match fitness.

- FRANCE were held to a goalless draw by Israel in Tel Aviv in their latest European qualifying match.
- JEAN TIGANA has confirmed that he will quit as coach of Lyon at the end of the season. The former French international, who took over in June 1993, had wanted sole charge of team affairs.
- NANTES extended their record unbeaten League run to 30 games with a 3-2 home win over Le Havre.
- RUDI VOLLER is to sue Marseille over $1.2million of unpaid taxes. The German striker claims he has been landed with a huge tax bill for his time in France, despite assurances from Marseille that the club would pay the tax on the player's behalf.

Power ranger

Keir Radnedge profiles Marcel Desailly, the driving force behind Milan's bid to retain the Champions Cup

Tour de force . . . Desailly is the power behind Milan's success

ONLY four footballers, remarkably, have won the European Champions Cup – the most prestigious club competition in the world – with two separate clubs.

Only one, however, has won the Cup with two separate clubs in successive seasons.

The four double-winners are Dutch free-kick specialist Ronald Koeman, Romanian sweeper Miodrag Belodedici, Yugoslav forward Dejan Savicevic and French midfielder Marcel Desailly.

And it is Desailly, the Ghana-born midfielder or defender, who won the Cup with his two clubs in successive seasons – with Marseille against Milan in 1993 and then with Milan against Barcelona a year later.

Desailly, born on September 7, 1968 and married with a three-year-old daughter, possesses skill and vision but, above all, great power. That is what makes him such an effective force either as a defender, stopping opposing forwards, or in midfield where his physical strength creates openings which Dejan Savicevic, Roberto Donadoni and Marco Simone can exploit.

His story is a typical example of the rags to riches legend which continues to inspire so many youngsters around the developing world.

Born in Accra, Desailly never knew his father and mother and was adopted, as a baby, by the original Marcel Desailly, who was French consul-general in Accra. When the young Marcel was only four the family all came to France, to Nantes.

Young Marcel was outstanding at football, track and field and tennis. He admired Ed Moses and Yannick Noah but, when it came to making a choice, he followed elder brother Seth and turned apprentice with Nantes.

From that point, his career has been one long string of success. At 18 he turned professional and made his league debut, at right-back against Sochaux. His versatility was already appreciated and, in a UEFA Cup-tie against Torino, he played sweeper in the first leg and stopper in the second.

The young Desailly was almost overwhelmed by the money he was earning and the lifestyle available. Fortunately, perhaps, when out shopping one day he struck up a friendship with the girl on the till at his local supermarket, they were soon married and Desailly was a potential playboy no longer!

Few French clubs can match Nantes when it comes to developing outstanding young players. But, of course, the time comes when almost all of them want to move on to richer, more fashionable clubs. Desailly earned his opportunity in 1992.

The first contacts with Marseille were made informally, in 1990, when Desailly was away playing for Ghana. National team 'leader' Abedi Pele was a hero in Marseille and suggested Desailly might consider joining him. For two years Desailly and Nantes both said no . . . until Marseille upped their offer to £1.2million.

Desailly says: "I knew it wouldn't be easy – and it wasn't! For the first three or four months I worked harder in training than I had ever worked in my life. It wasn't like Nantes. At Marseille no-one was certain of keeping his place in the team and I wanted to win the league and play in the Champions Cup."

He did both. And not only did he play in the Champions Cup but he was, ultimately, a member of the Marseille side which defeated Milan 1-0 in the Final in Munich. Desailly, that memorable night, shut the great Marco Van Basten out of the game.

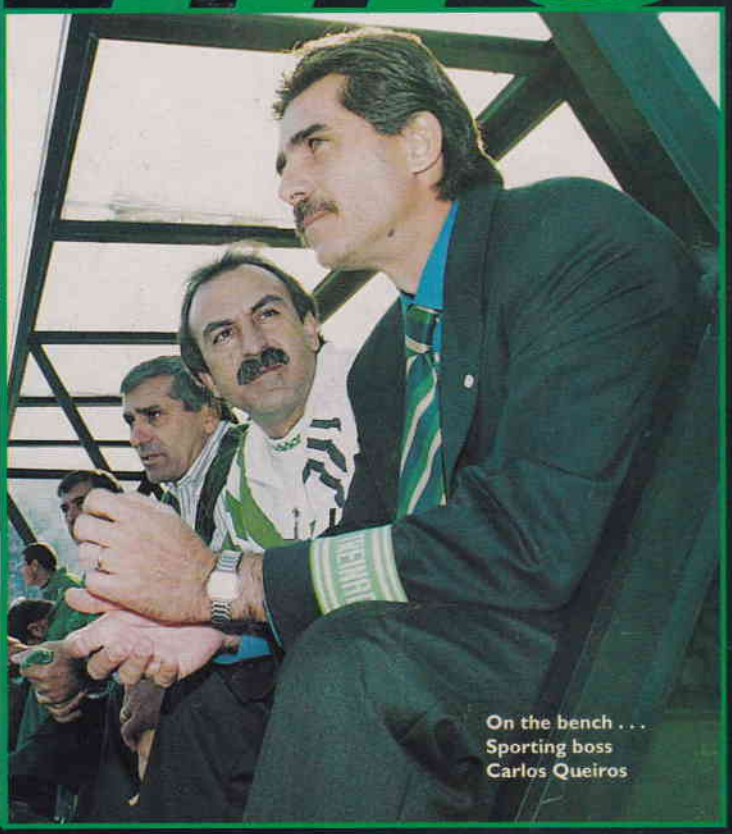
But disaster was just around the corner for Marseille. Two weeks after the European triumph, the club was plunged into a match-fixing scandal and financal disaster. President Bernard Tapie had to sell star players in all directions to pay the club's debts.

Milan, remembering Desailly's starring role against Van Basten, snapped him up in November 1993. They have no regrets. After all, at the end of last season, Desailly made Champions Cup history for them . . .

this sporting life

It's all gone wrong in Lisbon. Keir Radnedge reports how Sporting's season turned sour

On the ball . . . Sporting's prize asset Luis Figo


On the bench . . . Sporting boss Carlos Queiros

EVERYTHING appeared to be going fine. Porto had tinkered controversially with their playing squad and Benfica were going to be more worried about the Champions Cup than defending their Portuguese League title.

The way was thus left wide open for Sporting Clube do Portugal to mark a long-awaited revival by winning their first championship since the double-winning days of Malcolm Allison back at the start of the 1980s.

In the interim Sporting had staggered through an apparently never-ending series of boardroom squabbles and financial muddles. The arrival of Jose Sousa Cintra, the mineral-water millionaire, as president had brought a firm grip back in political terms and Carlos Queiros was a national hero after coaching Portugal to a World Youth Cup double.

What could go wrong? Destiny, it appeared, was calling.

Then, late in November, it all started to go wrong. Sporting were held 2-2 at home by Vitoria Setubal while Porto won 3-0 away to Farense. Suddenly Porto, instead of steadily falling away as Sporting had expected, were level on points. Sporting were whistled from the Alvalade stadium after their poor show against bottom-of-the-table Setubal who had, at that stage, yet to win a game.

Setubal even opened the scoring after 17 minutes with a lucky shot from outside the area by South African midfielder Eric Thinkler. The ball hit a post and keeper Paulo Costinha's shoulder before going in. Sporting equalised five minutes later when Bulgaria's Krasimir Balakov slipped round Setubal keeper Silvino Louro, and Paulo Torres made it 2-1 shortly after half-time. But that was the last time they looked like champions. Suspensions had deprived them of Luis Figo and Oceano while Moroccan Nourredine Naybet was injured. Setubal took crucial advantage to equalise in the final minute through veteran midfielder Adelino Nunes.

And that appears to have been the beginning of the end.

The first indications of spring brought not renewed hope for Sporting but their first League defeat, to Estrela Amadora. Three days later Yugoslav defender Budimir Vujacic became the latest victim of Portuguese football's car crash jinx when he was involved in an accident travelling north on the autostrada from Cascais to Lisbon. He was not hurt – but the omens were not good.

In successive weeks Porto edged further ahead, the irritation in Sporting ranks exacerbated by the fact that Porto's coach is Bobby Robson – the man Sporting had hastily sacked in the middle of the 1993-94 season so they could create room to bring in Queiros.

European dreams had long since come to an end with a first round defeat by Real Madrid in the UEFA Cup. Now, with the prospects of League success fading fast, the squad is falling apart. Balakov has agreed to move to Stuttgart – as replacement for Brazil's Dunga – at the season's end, when sweeper Emilio Peixe will power off to Sevilla and midfield general Luis Figo, after the bad-tempered wrangling with Juventus and Parma, is likely to head off to Barcelona.

Not really the sort of scenario befitting one of Portuguese football's Big Three. But then, when one has to go back 13 years for a club's last claim to fame, quite how big are Sporting now?

SPORTING CLUBE DO PORTUGAL
Founded 1906
Stadium Alvalade (75,230 capacity)
Colours Green and whited hooped shirts, black shorts, green and white socks
President Jose Sousa Cintra
Coach Carlos Queiros
Honours European Cup-winners Cup 1963. Portuguese championship: 16 (last 1982). Cup: 15 (last 1982). Portuguese Supercup: 2.

The squad

THE COACH
Carlos Manuel Brito Leal QUEIROS
Aged 42 (born March 1, 1953).
Born in Mozambique and came to Portugal pursuing a low-key career as a goalkeeper. Queiros is now considered one of the leading coaches in Europe after twice leading Portugal to victory in the World Youth Cup. Later he was senior manager of the Portuguese national side who were pipped by Switzerland and Italy to a place at last year's World Cup finals in the United States. Within a month of the completion of the qualifying tournament he had been snapped up by Sporting as replacement for Bobby Robson.

THE PLAYERS
Paulo Rebelo COSTINHA
Goalkeeper. Aged 21
(born September 22, 1973).
Has taken over as first-choice this season from the Yugoslav, Zoran Lemajic. Born in Braga, discovered and developed by local club Sporting Braga and joined Sporting last year.

Zoran LEMAJIC
Goalkeeper. Aged 34
(born November 8, 1960).
Football refugee from Niksic in the former Yugoslavia. Joined Sporting two years ago after spells with Farense and Boavista.

LUIS Filipe Pereira VASCO
Goalkeeper. Aged 28
(born December 29, 1966).
Signed last summer from Famalicao.

Fernando NELSON Jesus Alves
Defender. Aged 23
(born November 5, 1971).
Born and brought up in Oporto, the heartland of Sporting's League championship rivals. He played, as a teenager, not for Porto but for local neighbours Salgueiros, joining Sporting in 1991. Last season was his first as a Sporting regular.

Nourredine NAYBET
Centre-back. Aged 25
(born February 10, 1970).
Moroccan international who joined Sporting from French club Nantes last summer after the World Cup finals. Played in Morocco's first two matches in the finals, against Belgium and Saudi Arabia.

Defensive rock . . . Moroccan defender Nourredine Naybet

OCEANO Andrade Cruz.
Defender/defensive midielder.
Aged 32 (born July 29, 1962).
One of the great stalwarts of Portuguese football and the national team. A product of the Sporting youth system, he made his League debut in autumn 1984. From 1991 he spent three seasons with Real Sociedad before returning home last summer.

MARCO AURELIO Cunha Santos
Defender. Aged 28
(born February 18, 1967).
Brazilian utility defender, born in Rio de Janeiro. Joined Sporting last summer after four seasons with Uniao.

MARINHO
Defender. Aged 24
(born November 24, 1970).
Real name: Mario Teixeira da Costa. German-born product of Sporting youth system.

Everything's gone green . . . the Sporting squad in all their glory

Budimir VUJAVIC
Defender. Aged 29
(born January 4, 1966).
Formerly with Partizan Belgrade with whom he had earned promotion into the Yugoslav national squad before the 1992 European Championship finals – from which they were then barred. Joined Sporting last summer. Eight caps for Yugoslavia.

PAULO Manuel Banha TORRES
Defender. Aged 23
(born November 25, 1971)
Product of the Sporting youth system. Made his League debut as a 17-year-old in 1989. Former youth international with five senior caps.

Luis Miguel Amorim PEDROSA
Defender. Aged 23
(born March 13, 1972).
Began his career with Porto, joined Sporting from Boavista.

NUNO Jorge Pereira Silva VALENTE
Midfield. Aged 20
(born September 12, 1974).
One of only two Lisbon-born players in the squad (Figo is the other). Discovered by Sporting, sent to Portimonense on loan and recalled 18 months ago.

FILIPE Manuel Esteves Ramos
Midfield. Aged 25
(born April 21, 1970).
Angola-born, discovered by Sporting in 1989 and immediately promoted into the first-team squad.

Luis Filipe Madeira FIGO
Midfield. Aged 22
(born November 4, 1972).
Key member of the Portuguese national team and one of the most coveted properties in domestic football. Figo, Sporting's captain, was the subject of a mid-season tug o'war between Italian giants Juventus and Parma. Each club claimed to have reached agreement for a summer transfer – and then jointly pulled out of the deal, claiming Figo had misled both of them. They have now asked the Italian federation to bar Figo from a transfer into Italy for two years. A former World Youth Cup-winner, he is now tipped for a summer move to Barcelona.

Emilio Manuel Delgado PEIXE.
Midfield. Aged 22
(born January 16, 1973).
The other jewel in Sporting's midfield crown. Peixe, also a former World Youth Cup-winner, can play in midfield or as an attacking sweeper. He made his Sporting debut as a 17-year-old in 1990-91 season and will transfer to Sevilla at the season's end.

CAPUCHO
Midfield. Aged 23
(born February 21, 1972).
Real name: Nuno Fernando Rocha. Broke into the team this season because of injuries to other players. Formerly with Gil Vicente.

CARLOS Jorge Manuel Caldas XAVIER
Midfield. Aged 33
(born January 26, 1962).
Veteran international discovered by Sporting in Mozambique, and made his League debut for them in 1981. Had one season with Academica in the mid-1980s then spent three years in Spain with Real Sociedad. Returned to Lisbon last year.

CHIQUINHO CONDE
Forward. Aged 29 (born November 22, 1965).
Real name: Francisco Queimada Conde Junior. Born in Beira, Mozambique and was brought to Portuguese football in 1987 by Lisbon rivals Belenenses. Transferred to Sporting Braga in 1991, to Vitoria Setubal in 1993 and onto Sporting last summer. He was Setubal's second highest scorer last season with 15 goals.

Krasimir BALAKOV
Forward. Aged 28
(born March 29, 1966).
Bulgarian international midfielder or forward who played right through all his country's matches in the World Cup finals last summer. Bulgaria finished fourth, their best-ever placing, and Balakov was included in the official World Cup Select team, chosen by FIFA's World Cup technical commission. He is set to join VfB Stuttgart in Germany in the summer.

Emmanuel AMUNIKE
Winger. Aged 24
(born December 25, 1970).
Nigerian World Cup star whose success at USA '94 earned him the accolade of African Footballer of the Year from the African confederation's national coaches. Played last season in Egypt with African club champions Zamalek and transferred to Sporting last summer – albeit only after a transfer battle between them and Germany's MSV Duisburg.

Out of Africa . . . Nigerian Emmanuel Amunike

Andrzej JUSKOWIAK
Striker. Aged 24
(born November 3, 1970).
Polish international and star of the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, when his goals turned Poland into runners-up. First spotted by Bobby Robson, his trial with PSV was not followed up but Robson later recommended him to Sporting – who signed him two weeks before the Olympics.

Antonio Manuel PACHECO Domingos
Forward. Aged 28
(born December 1, 1966).
International who joined Sporting from Portimonense.

Ivailo Stoimenov YORDANOV
Forward or midfield. Aged 26
(born April 22, 1968).
Bulgarian international and reserve at the World Cup finals last year. Joined Sporting four years ago but had problems establishing himself in the team last season.

Ricardo Manuel SA PINTO
Forward. Aged 22
(born October 10, 1972).
International who first came to Sporting's attention when he inspired their defeat, in front of their own fans, on behalf of previous club Salgueiros. Transferred to Sporting last summer.

Norway

Egil ignores the forgotten men

AS THE Norwegian national team resumed their qualifying matches for the European Championships with two consecutive matches against Luxembourg, some players have reason to ask whether national team manager Egil Olsen has forgotten them.

Erland Johnsen of Chelsea, Mons Ivar Mjelde of FK Austria and Tore Pedersen, formerly of Sanfrecce Hiroshima, have had reasonable success with their clubs, but have been omitted when squads have been selection for national duty.

Johnsen went to Chelsea in 1989 after a period with Bayern Munich. He was in and out of the team for long periods, he has been a first-team regular under Glenn Hoddle's management. However, despite some excellent performances, he has failed to win Olsen's recognition.

With Rune Bratseth now retired, Johnsen might have believed that this chance had come, but Olsen has paired Henning Berg with another Johnsen – Lillestrom's Ronny.

Mjelde joined FK Austria nearly two years ago from Lillestrom, and has not been selected for Norway since leaving the country. Even though his tally of goals in Austria might have been higher, he has figured prominently and gained valuable experience in the Cup-winners Cup.

"Playing in Austria means I'm out of the focus of the Norwegian media," he says. "But I train harder here than I did with Lillestrom, and the opposition is tougher. As a consequence I'm gradually becoming a better footballer."

Pedersen's career has been full of ups and downs even though he is only 26. Having returned from Oldham, where he had a bad knee injury, to Brann Bergen, he signed a lucrative contract with Japanese club Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

After a mixed season in the J.League, where the knee continued to bother him, Pedersen is now back in Norway. He was not offered an extension of his contract in Japan and will now probably join a Norwegian club.

SIGURD ODEGAARD

Out of favour . . . Erland Johnsen

Denmark

AB see glory

ONE OF Denmark's oldest and most cherished soccer clubs, AB, have remarkably reached the cup semi-finals.

AB stands for Akademisk Boldklub, and as the name suggests they were founded by students, as many clubs were around the world in the early days of the game.

After a number of years in the doldrums, they have begun a resurgence, and are now back in the First Division of the Danish League, in effect the third division behind the superliga and qualificationliga.

But what really sent them bursting back into the spotlight was a shock 1-0 defeat of holders Brondby in the Giro Cup quarter-finals.

A crowd of 6,000 – their biggest for many years at the tiny ground in Gladsaxe – saw Jan Bjur score the only goal on his debut for AB.

AB have never won the cup; their only final appearance was a 1-0 defeat to Frem in 1956. But they have been Danish champions nine times in their proud 100-year history. The last title triumph was back in 1967.

The club's success has been built on a fine youth policy, and they now face OB of Odense in the two-legged semi-final later this month. OB covered themselves in glory too when they lost just 1-0 on aggregate to Parma in the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup, the only goal a penalty in the away leg. Goalkeeper Lars Hogh was inspired, but OB were restricted to few chances.

Hogh, though, conceded the craziest goal seen in Danish football for some time when the League season restarted at the end of March.

OB lost 2-1 to AGF, with the decisive goal coming from AGF goalkeeper Lars Winfeldt, whose wind-assisted drop kick took one bounce – over an embarrassed Hogh – and into the net.

Brondby also had a miserable start to the second half of the season, losing their first match 2-1 at home to Lyngby.

That meant they were overtaken at the top of the League by Aab Aalborg, who beat Silkeborg 2-1. Aab had the further boost of seeing striker Peter Rasmussen called up for the Danish squad to face Cyprus.

Brondby's highly admired forward Bo Hansen also received a first call-up to the national squad.

JIM HOLDEN

Sweden

Belgians snub Svensson

COACH Tommy Svensson was fuming after midfielder Par Zetterberg was prevented from playing for Sweden in Cyprus.

Zetterberg, 24, has recovered from a long-term injury and Svensson had hoped to test him before the coming European Championship qualifying ties. But his Belgian club, Anderlecht, wanted him for an important League fixture.

Bengt Madsen, a spokesman for the FA, said: "Tommy was given a rough deal by the Belgians. They did not show any respect for our national coach and that simply isn't acceptable. We plan to protest to UEFA."

Sweden were below strength in a 3-3 draw, in which Gothenburg stopper 'Olme' Johansson made his full international debut.

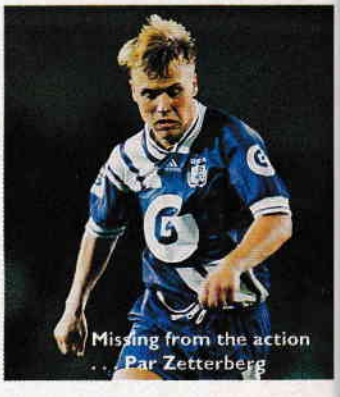
Sheffield Wednesday's Klas Ingesson was badly missed in midfield. "He has been criticised in the past, but we need his stamina and power," says Svensson. "His defensive qualities often free Roger Ljung to push forward to hit accurate crosses."

Ironically, Ljung has had trouble establishing his place in the first team at his German club, Duisburg.

Gothenburg are still interested in buying back midfielder Hakan Mild from Servette. Star youngster Jesper Blomqvist's name has been linked with Barcelona and Newcastle, while Italy's Padova are watching defender Joachim Bjorklund.

AIK have signed Finnish international stopper Jarmo Saastamoinen from Kuusysi Lahti.

PENTTI HIETANEN



Missing from the action . . . Par Zetterberg

Iceland

Kids in command

ALTHOUGH the 1995 Icelandic soccer season does not kick off until May 19, the Under-21 side made a long but highly successful trip to Cyprus to take part in a four-nation tournament.

Following a fine 3-1 win over Finland, the youngsters went on to draw 1-1 with Norway before crushing Estonia 7-0 in their final match, to push Norway into second place on goal difference.

Weeks of speculation surrounding the future of international defender Gudni Bergsson ended with his transfer from Tottenham to Bolton Wanderers for a fee as yet undisclosed.

Bergsson, now 29 and capped over 50 times, spent the summer playing for Reykjavik side Valur in the Icelandic First Division. He appeared as a substitute for Bolton in the Coca-Cola Cup Final against Liverpool.

RAB CHRISTIE

Holland

Ajax pack them in

MANY football people in Holland believe Ajax will spend most of the close season turning part of their main stand into a VIP box.

And while they are at it they will build a VIP lounge – to cater for all the foreign (including British) managers and scouts who go to watch the team. Some have been seen there so many times that they could have a season ticket.

Much of Ajax's football this season could best be described as brilliant. For instance, their home leg in the European Champions League quarter-final against Hajduk Split. Hadjuk played most of the match with nine or 10 defenders, but Ajax found a way through and around the wall to win 3-0. Not bad for a very young team.

Not bad either that Ajax can keep their cool, even when some players, and teams, appear to be challenging them to a kicking match.

Ajax also have found another 18-year-old, and he is not a product of their own soccer school. Nwankwo Kanu is Nigerian, and Ajax have been in the fortunate position of choosing between Patrick Kluivert and Kanu – or playing them both.

Ajax also are at peace with the Dutch FA, who were rather angry when eight of the club's players, selected for the national squad against Portugal, decided to boycott the game.

Apart from both sides sitting round the table and talking sense, Ajax are delighted that something they have been shouting for is included in the Dutch FA's plans for the future – reducing the top division from 18 clubs to 16.

A pity Feyenoord did not show the same discipline in their Cup-winners Cup quarter-final against Real Zaragoza. Rob Witschge was sent off in the home leg, Peter Bosz and Jozsef Kiprich went the same way in Spain. UEFA have banned all three for three European games.

All this comes at a time when Feyenoord are showing they can play some good football.

Looking to the future, Feyenoord have arranged to sign three 16-year-old Swedish youth internationals, Tobias Linderoth, Christian Groning and Frederik Berlond.

PSV have started reorganisation for next season by naming Rob Baan as number two to Dick Advocaat. Baan has been around for a long time, including spells as coach to the young Advocaat and a period on the Dutch FA coaching staff.

ERIC NICHOLLS

Teen sensation . . . Kanu of Ajax

Dutch delight . . . Ajax celebrate their 3-0 win over Hajduk Split

Republic of Ireland

New men make an impact

WHAT a difference a new manager can make. Just ask Shelbourne or Derry City.

The clubs were struggling in the early part of the season, changed bosses midway, and are now joint favourites for the Premier Division title.

When Colin Murphy replaced Eamonn Gregg in December, Shelbourne were much nearer the bottom than the top, but the Englishman with the Irish surname has worked the oracle at Tolka Park and ridden his luck along he way – three of Murphy's early wins came courtesy of own goals!

Shelbourne moved within striking distance of the title and ended Shamrock Rovers' hopes of retaining the championship when they beat them 3-0 on St Patrick's Day.

Up in Derry, Tony O'Doherty quit for business reasons and former City player Felix Healey rejoined the club from Coleraine. He brought Derry reject Harry McCourt back to Brandywell and enticed former colleague Paul Doolin back from Portadown.

Healey gradually saw his side move to the top of the table and the double could be on – Derry are through to the Cup semi-final.

Cork City, who topped the table for 10 weeks, must blame their water-logged pitch at Bishopstown for their decline, although they won the League Cup, beating Dundalk in the final.

Monaghan United are definitely down, while Cobh Ramblers and Athlone Town battle to avoid the second relegation spot.

University College Dublin are champions of the First Division, and Drogheda United are also returning to the Premier Division.

Pat Devlin, who led Bray Wanderers to FAI Cup success in 1990, is back in charge of the club. After spells with Shamrock Rovers, Athlone Town and Drogheda United, he takes over from John Holmes.

Portugal will be making their first visit to Lansdowne Road on April 26, and their first visit to Dublin in 46 years. Their last was in 1949, when they lost 1-0 at Dalymount Park to a penalty by Paddy Coad.

SEAN CREEDON

Portugal

Porto almost there

FC PORTO seem set to become the new Portuguese champions, difficult though it was to believe this would happen when the season started.

They had lost a number of players, Kostadinov, for instance, and the replacements were not of a very promising quality. The coach Bobby Robson, was not completely happy.

But suddenly everything changed. One of the new arrivals, the Brazilian Emerson, soon established himself as an outstanding general, the lungs of the whole team, and then the deal with the two Russians, Yuran and Kulkov, who had been considered off-limits at Benfica, enabled Robson to complete a team who delighted all of us with attacking football of the purest quality.

Victory over Benfica settled everything bar an earthquake. Benfica fought hard and well, but when the referee chose to close his eyes to a clear penalty (Joao Pinto had been brutally brought down in the Porto area) everything was lost for the Lisbon Eagles.

The astonishing change of manager that occurred at Benfica last summer did not pay, as we can all see. Toni had won the most difficult of all championships when the club were in the middle of a terrible crisis. Yet he was shown the door because Jorge had become available, having been shown the door at Paris St Germain.

Jorge made mistakes. Unforgivable mistakes, like playing Milan at San Siro with nine defenders and praying for a 0-0 draw.

Robson also had his nightmares, as when Porto played Sampdoria. The Portuguese, having managed a 1-0 victory in Genoa, were in a wonderful position to reach the semi-finals of the Cup-winners Cup.

But at Antas, we saw a number of Porto players succumbing to fear, and Sampdoria giving a masterful tactical lesson to the crowd on the way to winning the match, 1-0, and the tie on penalties.

In the Second Division, Campomaiorense seem capable of taking the championship and winning promotion outright. This is a success story comparable with what has happened at Blackburn.

Campomaiorense are a regional club from the border with Spain. Their people, frontiersmen, are of an enterprising spirit second to none in this country. The Kings of the coffee industry decided that Campomaiorense should be great. They are on the way.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

Belgium

Germans lift gloom

THE announcement that Belgium had managed to attract high-calibre opposition from Germany for the opening of the country's new national stadium on August 23 brought some respite from the depression that has pervaded Belgian football this season.

The Red Devils are almost certainly out of the European Championship finals next summer, and the clubs have failed, once again, to get a representative into the semi-finals of any of the European competitions.

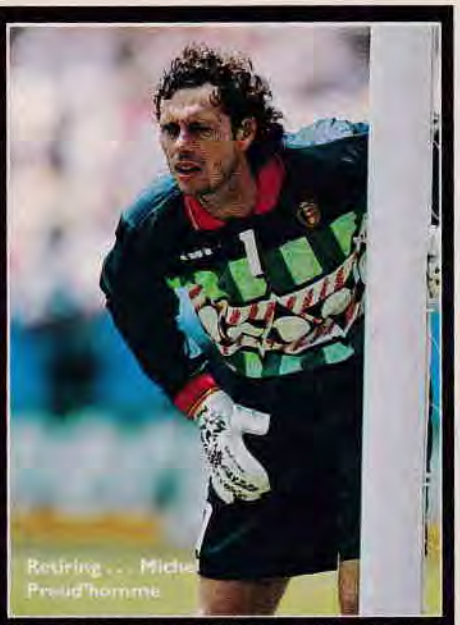
The Germans will arrive at the King Baudouin Stadium, being constructed on the site of Heysel, to find some unfamiliar opponents, possibly under a new coach if Paul Van Himst bows to the pressure.

Franky Van der Elst has retired from international football and so too has Michel Preud'homme, less than a year after he was so widely acclaimed for his acrobatics in the World Cup finals.

Preud'homme's successor is likely to be either Filip De Wilde or Gilbert Bodart. Their respective clubs, Anderlecht and Standard Liege, have two of the three best defensive records in the First Division and lead the race for the title, well clear of Club Brugge.

Whoever eventually claims Preud'homme's place will be playing in the unlikely international venue of RWD Molenbeek's Edmond Machtens Stadion against the USA on April 22.

Normal service will be resumed four days later when Parc Astrid stages Belgium's European Championship qualifier against Cyprus.



Retiring ... Michel Preud'homme

The on-going saga of RC Liege continues. They are no longer able to use the dilapidated Stade Rocourt, and surely will have to seek new temporary facilities now that their supporters have shown their disenchantment with watching games at Sclessin, home of bitter rivals Standard.

Only 383 of them paid to watch the game with Beveren there, which resulted in a rare 1-0 home win.

RC Liege, under a probable new name of Maimette, may shortly move into the athletics stadium at nearby Xhovement. But facilities there are currently hopelessly inadequate.

NICHOLAS HARLING

Israel

French held in Tel Aviv

THE early days of Spring were marked by a dose of 'Franco-Fever'.

Israel's football-crazy public was gripped by the prospect of the national side taking on the French and the chance to repeat one of the nation's finest efforts, the historic 3-2 victory snatched in the dying seconds of the World Cup qualifier in October 1993.

The recent resurgence of Tottenham Hotspur's Ronny Rosenthal also served to fire up the fans.

Performances in friendlies leading up to the France meeting left much to be desired. A 4-2 win against Luxembourg was marred by inept defensive work, and the Israelis fell to a 2-1 defeat against Turkey in Istanbul, after leading 1-0.

In the end Israel held France to a commendable goalless draw and could have won the tie at the death when Rosenthal found himself clear through on goal.

Title hopefuls Hapoel Petah Tikva lost touch with Maccabi Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa. Maccabi Tel Aviv returned to the summit with a 2-0 victory over Bnei Yehuda, while Haifa stumbled to their fourth defeat of the season, losing by a solitary goal to struggling Betar Tel Aviv.

Maccabi Haifa chairman Ya'acov Shahar completed his purchase of the club, the first National League team to be fully controlled by a private owner. This ends the monopoly held over the sport by a mixture of political and labour-affiliated organisations since the 1920s.

DEREK FATTAL

Turkey

Saftig sacked by Gala

FADING champions Galatasaray are looking for their fourth coach in two years.

Reinhard Saftig's brief reign ended after two successive home defeats had made virtually certain that the title would not be retained. This blow, combined with disappointing earlier results in Europe, ensured Saftig's departure.

Ironically it was a former Gala assistant coach, Ahmet Akcan, and a former Gala player, Elvir Bolic, who helped to cause the upset. Akcan, now coach of Antalyaspor, used his knowledge of his old club to good effect in plotting a 3-0 victory. Then Bolic, Bosnian-born but now a Turkish citizen, scored twice in Gaziantepspor's 2-1 win. Bolic had little success with Gala and was released in 1993, but is now the League's leading marksman with 18.

Besiktas, having lost 3-2 against Gala, took advantage to move into a four-point lead, helped by a 2-0 victory over second-placed Trabzonspor.

Fenerbahce, who missed the title by a single point last year, seem out of the running, possibly distracted by a row with the League. President Ali Sen claimed that a referee, Bulent Yavuz, had shown bias against his club in two matches, once by sending off an innocent player and then by giving a goal when the ball had rebounded off a post.

Turkey came from behind to beat Israel 2-1 in Istanbul, Suat scoring the winner in the last minute.

● FORMER international striker Tanju Colak has been released from prison less than halfway through his 22-month sentence for illegally importing a foreign car, and is now commentating for a TV channel.

HASAN CEMALI

Luxembourg

THE NATIONAL team could not repeat the form that defeated Malta – they went down 2-0 to Norway in their latest European Championship Qualifier.

Goals from Leonhardson and Aose were enough to beat a Luxembourg side missing Hellers, Holtz and goalkeeper Paul Koch and depleted further by the dismissal of Ralph Ferron in the 70th minute.

Defending champions Avenir Beggen lost ground in the race for the title, then scored 12 goals in a Cup-tie a week later.

Avenir led Union 2-0 but lost 3-2 and slipped to third, four points behind Grevenmacher and two behind Jeunesse Esch, who drew 1-1 before a crowd of 2,810 in Esch-alzette.

In the fourth round of the Cup, Avenir took revenge on Second Division Remich and won 12-4, away. Red Boys Differdange were 8-1 winners at Jeunesse Junglinster, and Grevenmecher put six past Echternach without reply.

Union's Frank Deville could be moving to Germany, after being watched by Koln. He would cost around £300,000.

TIM BRICE

Greece

PANATHINAIKOS lost their 13-month club unbeaten record but continue to hold a comfortable lead.

First-half goals by Costas Lagonidis and Alexis Alexiou gave PAOK a 2-0 win at home before 23,000 fans. It was the first time since Xanthi won 2-1 that Panathinaikos had lost a League game.

Nevertheless, Panathinaikos are still clear League leaders, ahead of AEK Athens and Olympiakos Piraeus.

Panathinaikos and AEK are likely to face each other in the Greek Cup Final after 1-0 semi-final first leg wins for both sides. Panathinaikos beat Kavala away and AEK edged out Edesaikos at home.

Greece have finally declined a proposition for a friendly match with Brazil, saying they did not want to overload the players. But the Greek media claim that the players' clubs did not want the match.

National coach Polychroniou said he was satisfied "only in the second half" of a 1-1 draw with Switzerland at the Olympic Stadium in Athens.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Malta

DAVID CLUETT, Malta's top goalkeeper, may soon be looking at new horizons, after having a week's trial with Scottish champions Rangers.

"I feel I fared well," he says. "Now it all depends upon my performances in international competitions with Malta."

Cluett, who plays for Floriana, was the only one of the Maltese team to live up to form in the defeat by Luxembourg, still a major talking point several weeks after the event.

In the domestic front, Hibernians' once comfortable lead at the top has narrowed to one point after the team took only two points from a possible nine.

Sliema Wanderers lost 3-1 to Floriana, then got back into winning form by beating Pieta Hotspurs 5-1.

New coach Edward Aquilina seems to have worked out a good scoring formula. His team blasted six goals past fellow title challengers Hamrun Spartans and another six past Zurrieq.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

Star of the East

Spotlight on Victor Leonenko, Ukrainian football's latest hero

IN THE Sixties, Valeri Lobanovski. In the Seventies, Oleg Blokhin. In the Eighties, Igor Belanov.

And now Victor Leonenko has emerged as the brightest star of Kiev Dynamo, the brightest star of Ukrainian football.

He has been named Player of the Year three times in succession, and his gift for scoring – vital goals, spectacular goals, any type of goals – seems sure to make him the latest big-money export to a western outfit.

The Nineties began badly for Kiev Dynamo, the Ukraine's top club. Blokhin became a coach in Greece. Midfield general Alexander Zavarov joined French club Nancy. And Alexei Mikhailichenko went to Sampdoria in Italy and then on to Rangers in Scotland.

Then along came Leonenko . . . who is not Ukrainian, but Siberian, and reached Kiev via Moscow, despite being a big fan of his current club.

He was born in Tumen, the industrial heart of Western Siberia, and began playing organised soccer when he was six. He had to start early, because the severe weather in that area means that the game can only run for six months of each year.

At 17 Leonenko was a regular in the Geolog Tumen team in the old Soviet Second Division, and had turned down two bigger clubs while discussing a possible move to Kiev Dynamo.

At that time, all the Dynamo clubs in what was then the USSR were owned by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, based in Moscow. "I was found by officials from Moscow and sent there against my will," he says.

So although he wanted to play for Kiev Dynamo, he found himself at their namesake club in Moscow, but now does not regret the experience.

"Going to such a club after Siberia was like moving from the bottom of society to the top," he says. "For the first time I was meeting great players I had only seen on TV."

On the break-up of the Soviet Union, however, he elected to go to Kiev after all, and left Moscow after playing 16 games and scoring nine goals, and after a spectacular row with the coach, Valeri Gazzaev.

Despite that, the Muscovites wanted to keep him, and the case went to UEFA, who were perhaps taken aback when Leonenko told them: "I'll never play in Moscow again, even if they give me half the city." He got his way, a fee was agreed between the two Dynamo clubs, and Leonenko was free to play for the club of his choice. . . when he could get a game.

New coach Mikhail Fomenko, a former sweeper, did not see eye to eye with the newcomer about his role, and Leonenko was dropped several times before gaining a regular place.

His 16 goals helped Dynamo to the 1993 championship, and he also hit the decisive goal in the Cup Final to clinch the double for his club.

In the same year he scored twice in a sensational 3-1 defeat of Barcelona in the Champions Cup, when Kiev played for 80 minutes with 10 men, only for the Catalans to take the second leg 4-1.

Fomenko's defensive methods cost Dynamo the match, according to Leonenko, and a furious argument ensued. Most people sided with the player, and the upshot was the coach's resignation.

His replacement, Jozef Szabo, had played for both the big Dynamo clubs in the 1960s.

After a remarkable match last September, when Leonenko scored twice and inspired his club to a 3-2 win after their Moscow namesakes had been two up, Szabo said: "Victor is the only one of the present squad who would get into my best-ever Kiev team.

"He's good enough for any side in Europe, a winner who makes everyone around him play better. For me, he is the perfect striker."

Eventually the championship was retained, with Leonenko scoring 15 goals. He also put up further creditable performances in Europe – where three home games draw a total attendance of nearly 250,000 to the Republican Stadium – and for the Ukrainian national team.

Leonenko made his international debut in August 1992, against Hungary, and has gained 11 further caps, scoring four goals, two of them in two minutes against the USA in October 1993.

There will be many more honours for this modest 25-year-old son of the snowy north. But such are the laws of soccer supply and demand that he seems sure to figure in sunnier spots before long.

VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH & OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

Rising star . . . Kiev Dynamo's Victor Leonenko

PRO-FILE
VICTOR LEONENKO
KIEV DYNAMO AND UKRAINE

Born October 5, 1969, in Tumen, Siberia
Previous clubs Geolog Tumen, Moscow Dynamo (Russia)
League debut June 5, 1991, Moscow Dynamo v Moscow Spartak (Soviet Supreme League)
International debut August 26, 1992, v Hungary
International caps 12 (four goals)
Club honours Ukrainian Championship 1993, 1994. Ukrainian Cup 1994. Player of the Year 1992-93-94

Romania

Rapid end Steaua's double dreams

STEAUA, as ever, lead the League, with 'U' Craiova not far adrift despite a scoreless match with mid-table Goria Distrita.

Dinamo are fourth, not quite out of contention but behind National, whose striker Duna tops the hot-shots with 15 out of 42.

The Cup, however, is another story. Steaua and Dinamo went out to Rapid in Bucharest and 'U' Craoiva in Pitesti.

In the other ties the 'A' Division clubs were too strong for the smaller fry of the top class or the remaining Second Division teams.

The quarter-finals will be on neutral grounds, and such as 'E' Craoiva, UT Arad and FC Farul will be putting their efforts into Cup success now that UEFA qualification, even through Intertoto, is out of the question.

FC Muramures are the only minnow left after defeating Rocar Bucharest in Alba Iulia, and are awaiting a draw that sadly offers no prospect of a home tie.

Briefly domestic football was on a back burner with the Poles visiting Bucharest to see what they could make of Hagi & Co in front of only 24,000 at the National Stadium. Juskowiak put 'Klub Polska' in the lead but just before half-time Raducoiu equalised and Romania were able to take the points thanks to a Wandzyk own goal on the hour.

Azerbaijan away is the next stop for 'General' Iordanescu's team, who remain the favourites to qualify for their first European Championship Finals since 1984.

But it is not quite all over, with France having a hard time, Poland slipping and the Slovaks still hoping.

The threatened players' strike on March 4 did not disrupt national team planning. League matches began late, players wore armbands and doubtless the Government took note of the League-inspired protest against the tax on the money paid through the turnstiles.

BOB VAUGHAN

Bulgaria

Hristo still a hero

ALL may not be well between European Footballer of the Year Hristo Stoichkov and Barcelona, but the reverse is true of his national team after the second victory over Wales.

This brought maximum points from four games to date in Group 7 of the European Championship, with goals by Balakov, who had been interesting Crystal Palace, and Penev (2) sent Wales to the foot of the table.

Moldova, away, are next in line, followed by the big one at home to Germany.

With two-thirds of the domestic season gone Levski lead Lok Sofia, but Cup form has been poor and seems to have affected League performances, starting away to Botev Plovdiv.

Defeats by Neftochimik, the promoted club, and by Dunav Ruse, who finished mid-table in Division Two North last season, ended interest in both knockout competitions, and they were followed by a miserable lone-goal defeat in Plovdiv, while Lok Sofia were closing the gap with a victory in Stara Zagora against Beroe.

Only Lok can realistically catch the stuttering big-city Blues. Slavia and CSKA are too far behind.

With takeover manoeuvres in full swing, one of the country's best coaches seems unlikely to have the pleasure of leading Levski in Europe next season. Georgi Vasilev will, in all probability, part company with the club, and the new committee will put their own man in place.

How they will find a better technician it is hard to imagine, but there will be relief at CSKA, where Dimitar Penev continues to hold sway, as well as running the national team.

His club striker, Pietar Mikhtarski, leads the League scorers with Nasko Sirakov (ex-Botev, now Levski) and Sofia's Chalamanov. All three are on 15.

BOB VAUGHAN

Top scorer . . . Levski's Nasko Sirakov

Ukraine

Trading places

THE unprecedented trade between Ukraine's two biggest clubs – Kiev Dynamo and Dnipro – made headlines in the country before the championship restarted after the winter break

Four Ukraine internationals - defender Bezhenar, midfielders Maksimov and Pokhlebaev and forward Konovalov were signed from financial troubled Dnepr by Kiev Dynamo.

All four had lucrative offers from leading Russian clubs such as Spartak, Moscow Dynamo and Torpedo, but opted to stay in the Ukraine.

Kiev Dynamo have also recruited Ukraine Under-21 international Amilekhin from Karpaty and Kastorny from Metalist.

Dynamo re-signed their former star, Oleg Kuznetsov from Maccabi Haifa of Israel but later sent him on loan to First Division leaders Borisphen Borispol.

The Kiev Dynamo clear-out surprisingly included former skipper Kovalets and two defensive midfielders Topchiev and Sharan, who moved to Dnepr while second goalkeeper Voroblov and Georgia international Dzhishkariani went on loan to Borisphen.

Other significant transfers included Russian World Cup international Ternavsky, from Spartak Moscow to Chornomorets.

Kiev Dynamo beat Torpedo Zaporozhje 2-1 on aggregate in the fourth round of Ukraine Cup, before the League programme started.

In the championship Kiev Dynamo began with a 2-1 away win over Prikarpattie followed by an emphatic 3-0 defeat of second-placed Shakhtyor Donetsk. The champions stretched their lead over Shakhtyor to 10 points, thanks mainly to a lethal striker Victor Leonenko, who scored two times in each game and is Ukraine's top scorer with 15 goals.

● SIX of Ukraine's 18 Premier League clubs started the second half of the 1994-95 season with different managers: Dynamo Kiev (Joszef Szabo out; Vladimir Onyschenko in); Shakhtyor (Valeriy Yaremchenko out, Vladimir Salkov in); Dnipro (Nikolay Pavlov out, Alexander Lysenko in); Tavria (Andrei Cheremisin out; Vitaliy Shalychev in); Volyn (Roman Pokora out, Vitaliy Kvartsaniy in); and Zariya-Mals (Yuri Sevastiyanov out, Anatoliy Korshkov in).

● VICTOR BANNIKOV has been re-elected president of Ukraine Football Federation for a second four-year term.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

Russia

Spartak's glittering prize

MOSCOW SPARTAK added another prize to their extensive collecting when they won the Russian League's last pre-season tournament.

The 1994 national champions beat Moscow Lokomotiv, 1-0, in the Final game of the Khazarov Cup. Moscow Dinamo destroyed Vladikavkaz Spartak, 4-0, in the third place play-off.

Unlike most other League teams, Moscow Spartak maintained their last season's roster. They lost only defender Rashid Rakhimov, to Austria Wien, and Vladislav Ternavski, to Chernomorets Odessa, from its Champions League squad.

Goalie Ruslan Nigmatullin, 19, is evidently coach Oleg Romantsev's best purchase. Formerly with Kamaz, Nigmatullin has been promptly nicknamed Das because of his resemblance to Rinat Dasayev, one of Europe's top goalies in the 1980s.

Plans are afoot for a farewell games in Russia for Dasayev, now coaching in Seville in Spain. Moscow Spartak's old-timers (1977-1988) will play The Rest of the World (Friends of Dasayev) Team in June in Moscow, probably Luzhniki Olympic Stadium. However, the planned closure of the 100,000-seat arena for renovation and construction of a movable roof was put on hold when the Russian government failed to provide the promised money.

● THE Russian Federation has signed a £6million thrre-year spnsorship deal with Danish chewing gum manufacturer Stimoral. Winning the championship will be worth £350,000 to the top team. Under the deal, one match a week will be televised live throughout Russia. The amount each club receives from the sponsors at the season's end will depend on how many times their games are televised and on their final league position.

VICTOR GUSEV

Albania

TIRANA seem sure to finish as champions and could well complete the League-Cup double.

They are nine points ahead after 22 matches, and are through to the Cup Final following victory over their city rivals, Partizani, 2-0 in the semi-final. Partizani are in second place in the League, but only splendid goalkeeping by Perlat Musta – including a penalty save from Sokol Prenga – prevented them from being routed. Champions Teuta also reached the final, on May 31, by defeating Dinamo 3-1.

Tirana's Fortuzi is top scorer in the League with 13 goals, two ahead of Andi Vuthi (Laci) and Arben Shehu of promoted Shqiponja.

GEZIM NUSHI

Armenia

SHIRAK GYUMRI won the Armenian title for the second time in three years, setting a record by going unbeaten through the 28-match season.

They won 24 and draw four to finish five points ahead of Homentmen and last season's double winners Ararat. Ararat ended Shirak's double hopes – they they won the Cup thanks to a goal from Barsegian.

The national team will their Euro '96 qualifier against Spain on April 26 under a new coach, Samvel Darbinian, the 42-year-old coach of Ararat.

Eduard Markarov was dismissed after poor results against Belgium (lost 2-0) and Cyprus (draw 0-0 at home and lost 2-0 away).

The national championship has a new formula this year. Twelve clubs play in two groups of six, with the top eight playing for the title.

GAGIK YEGIAZARIAN & VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH

Macedonia

VARDAR SKOPJE players went on a two-day strike following a row with club officials.

They were demanding that all the administrators resign, with the exception of head coach Djoko Hadzijevski and director Dragan Tomovski.

Although Vardar are the reigning champions and current leaders, the players had not been paid any salary or bonuses for two months.

Negotiations are continuing, but there are rumours that Vardar can raise the necessary money only by selling their 22-year-old central defender, Zoran Jovanovski, who made a big impresion in December when he played for a 'World XI' in a charity game in Rome.

MIROLJUB STOJKOVIC

Latvia

THE LATVIAN championship, which starts in the middle of April, will have only 11 teams, Gemma Riga having withdrawn because of financial difficulties.

They will play 20 matches each, and after that the first six will play 10 more games. Two games will be relegated from the First Division and only one promoted, so that only ten teams will play in 1996.

Many teams have been renamed. Auseklis Daugavpils are now Vilan-D, Vidus Riga are Amstrig, Interskonto are Skonto-Metals. FC Dag have left the capital, Riga, and are based in Liepaya.

The national team lost 3-1 in a friendly in Budapest against Hungary, while the Under-21 team beat Hungary 1-0, Nickolay Polyakov scoring in the last minute.

VALERY KARPOUSHKIN

Yugoslavia

Alive and kicking?

WHILE the optimists, mainly from the FA and the leading clubs, proclaim that Yugoslav football is still 'very much alive', the pessimists fear for the worst.

There are not many fans on the terraces – average attendances are well below the 4,500 mark – and many fear soccer in 'new Yugoslavia' (Serbia and Montenegro), faced with the horrifying political and economic turmoil and temporarily lifted sports sanctions, will follow the same, sad path as Hungary, where the game has never recovered from Soviet intervention nearly four decades ago.

Although club giants such as Red Star or Partizan insist they will do their best to keep the player exodus under control, their rising stars – Kovacevic, Stojkovski, Petkovic of Red Star, Milosevic and Curcic of Partizan, Pantelic of Vojvodina Novi Sad – have already started to eye lucrative contracts in Italy and Spain.

Next June, they are expected to join the army of more than 120 Yugoslav professionals playing all around the globe, from Japan – Stojkovic, Binic, Maslovar, Vasilijevic – to, ironically, Hungary. The best of them, who left the country very young, have established high reputations in the strongest European leagues: Savicevic (Milan), Mihajlovic and Jugovic (Sampdoria) in Italy; Jokanovic (Oviedo), Mijatovic (Valencia), Djukic (La Coruna), Brnovic (Espanol) in Spain; Drulovic (Porto) in Portugal; and Dubajic (Stuttgart), Komljenovic (Eintracht Frankfurt) in Germany.

There is legitimate concern that the existing trend will leave domestic competition without the quality players to attract even the minimal interest of fans who still remember the days with Red Star Beigrade.

A delicate balance between the development of

Successful expo[illegible] Sampdoria's [illegible] Vladimir Jugovic

highly talented youths and export of 'final products' seems to be heavily damaged, partly due to the fact that the most prominent and experienced coaches – Boskov, Stepanovic, Antic, V. Popovic, Draskovic, Zec, Milosevic, Popadic, Lukic, Cabrinovic – have also flown abroad, partly because of lack of expertise and strategy within the leading clubs who simply do not know how, where and when to spend substantial money earned from big transfers.

Meanwhile, more than ever before, politics and football are intertwined. Top Serbian government officials, including the Premier and two leading ministers, are important figures at Partizan and Red Star. At the same time, the FA President Miljan Miljanic has been banned from State Television programmes (RTS). A reason given by Sports programme editor Marko Markovic was short and nonsensical: "Miljanic speaks too much to say too little."

MIROLJUB STOJKOVIC

Czech Republic

One miss could be costly

DUSAN UHRIN'S national team maintained an interest in Euro '96 with a 4-2 home victory over Byelorussia, but now comes the crunch.

The Dutch visit the Czech Republic on April 26, following their no-mistakes 4-0 win over Malta, whose only point so far came from the draw with the Czechs. On that occasion Suchoparek missed a penalty, which could prove decisive in the closing stages of what may still be a close finish.

In Ostrava the Czechs had opened their campaign against Malta in September, Byelorussia clawed their way back into the tie, but Kuka restored the two-goal advantage.

A win against Holland would put the Czech Republic level with the Dutch after five of the 10 matches, and apart from a tricky visit to Oslo the rest of the programme appears none too difficult.

On the home front, the big news was Sparta's parting company with their German general manager, Jurgen Sunermann, whose contract should have run until 1997. The club are not out of the chase for honours, but recent results have not been good enough.

President Petr Mach has invested heavily in the club, but he is not the most popular man in Prague soccer circles. He likes his own way, and at one recent home game he ordered the removal of a journalist who had the cheek to criticise him.

This was followed by more unwelcome publicity. Betting shops stopped taking bets on Zizkov-Sparta and Benesov-Drnovice games, amid rumours of a gentlemen's agreement that Sparta would take the League and Zizkov the Cup.

As it happened, Sparta gained maximum points from their away game with Viktoria and Drnovice won in Benesov, which meant Bohemians dropping to the penultimate place. Then they lost to Slavia by the odd goal in three, and that left Sparta five points adrift.

In the autumn Sparta and Slavia played a goalless draw on the Letna but this time Sparta must win or say "na shledanou" to the 1995 title. Slavia have by far the better goal difference and possibly the easier run-in.

Liberec and Boby Brno, the best supported club, look to have a chance of qualifying for Europe next season, possibly by the Intertoto backdoor, while Zizkov seem to have blown their chances by going four consecutive games without a point.

Runaway Division Two leaders Uherske Hradiste are unlikely to be caught, and Usti na Labem should come up with them.

BOB VAUGHAN

Hungary

Three and out for Verebes

JOZSEF VEREBES, moving from one struggling club, Gyor, to another, Vasas, saw them suffer three successive defeats – the third at home to Gyor – and promptly resigned as manager.

"The team is full of misfortune, and lacking hope," he said. "The players can do everything but when they go the pitch they look like they have forgotten their own names. I can't do anything with these trembling players so I have decided I will not do the job any more."

Vasas have now taken on Rudolf Illovszky, aged 73, and are considering Robert Glazer as his partner, as a two-pronged replacement pairing.

Leaders Ujpest lost 1-0 at Sponron, to a goal by Nemeth in the 68th minute, having beaten Vasas 3-0, before a 2-0 win at Pecs, where Kispest-Honved lost 2-0. Denes Eszenyi, on loan until the end of the season from Belgium's Mechelen, was one of the scorers.

Kispest, who drew 1-1 at home to Csepel in Mihaly Kozma's debut as manager, managed a 3-1 success at Vac in a rescheduled match.

BVSC starlet Zoltan Bukszegi scored three goals in an outstanding individual performance in the 4-1 win away to bottom-placed Parmalat.

Parmalat then drew 0-0 at promoted Stadler, when the latter club's stadion in the village of Akaszto was opened by Laszlo Benko, the Hungarian FA president. A crowd of 10,000 attended in a compact arena paid for by Jozsef Stadler, the club's owner, and World Cup Final referee Sandor Puhl ensured that nobody got up to any tricks on the pitch.

After 18 matches, Ujpest and Ferencvaros, with 39 points, have a six-point lead over Kispest.

The national team repeated what happened in their opening European Championship qualifying group fixture at home to Turkey last September, leading Switzerland 2-0 before slumping to a 2-2 draw. Qualifications are not made like this.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

Slovakia

DOMESTIC football continues as a one-horse race, with Slovan having lost only once, 2-1 at home to Kosice.

They also were held to a 1-1 draw at Presov against Tatran, whose Cup-winners Cup exploits in eliminating two British clubs are little use in attempts to avoid relegation.

SZ Zilina, however, are the favourites for the drop, despite a fighting performance in Bratislava against Inter. Slovan will hope to mount a challenge in the UEFA Cup next season, and Kosice and the much-improved Trnava will be hoping some way or another to qualify.

That was the venue when the national team saw off Azerbaijan to record their first-ever win in a competitive match. This enabled Slovakia to leapfrog over the Poles, reach five points and retain an interest in Group 1.

If the impossible could be achieved and an ailing France are defeated in Nantes in the next tie, while Poland beat the Israelis, Venglos and Co are in business.

What a triumph it would be for Venglos to lead out his national side in England, preferably at Villa Park!

Before the Azerbaijan game, Slovakia had lost 5-0 to Brazil in Fortaleza, then beaten Russia in Kosice with two goals by Dubovsky to one by Russia's Karpin.

BOB VAUGHAN

Croatia

MIROSLAV BLAZEVIC, one of the biggest names in Croatian football, has been going through a tough time lately .

Not so long ago he was owner, president and coach of FC Croatia Zagreb. Now he is a nobody, with only eight per cent of the shares to his name.

The country's new regime forced the privatisation of the club – President Franjo Tudjman is a big fan – and some DM16 million were raised. Other people are now in charge, and Blazevic, though still coach to the national team, is no longer a power at the club.

He has decided to leave, but wants a farewell present of around DM2million, which the new bosses will not agree.

Police found a live mine under the FC Croatia stadium, but do not think it had anything to do with the recent changes in administration. Customers at the Club 88 disco, which occupies part of the arena, were blamed.

Mirsad Hibic, a Muslim who was Hajduk Split's Player of the Year in 1994, has decided to apply for Croatian citizenship.

Djuro Brodarac, 41, is the new president of the Croatian Soccer Federation. After three rounds of voting, he gained the votes needed, 24, to 22 by Antun Cilic. Brodarac, a former policeman, now works as one of the country's 22 regional governors and is a member of the HDZ governing party.

ZDRAVKO REIC

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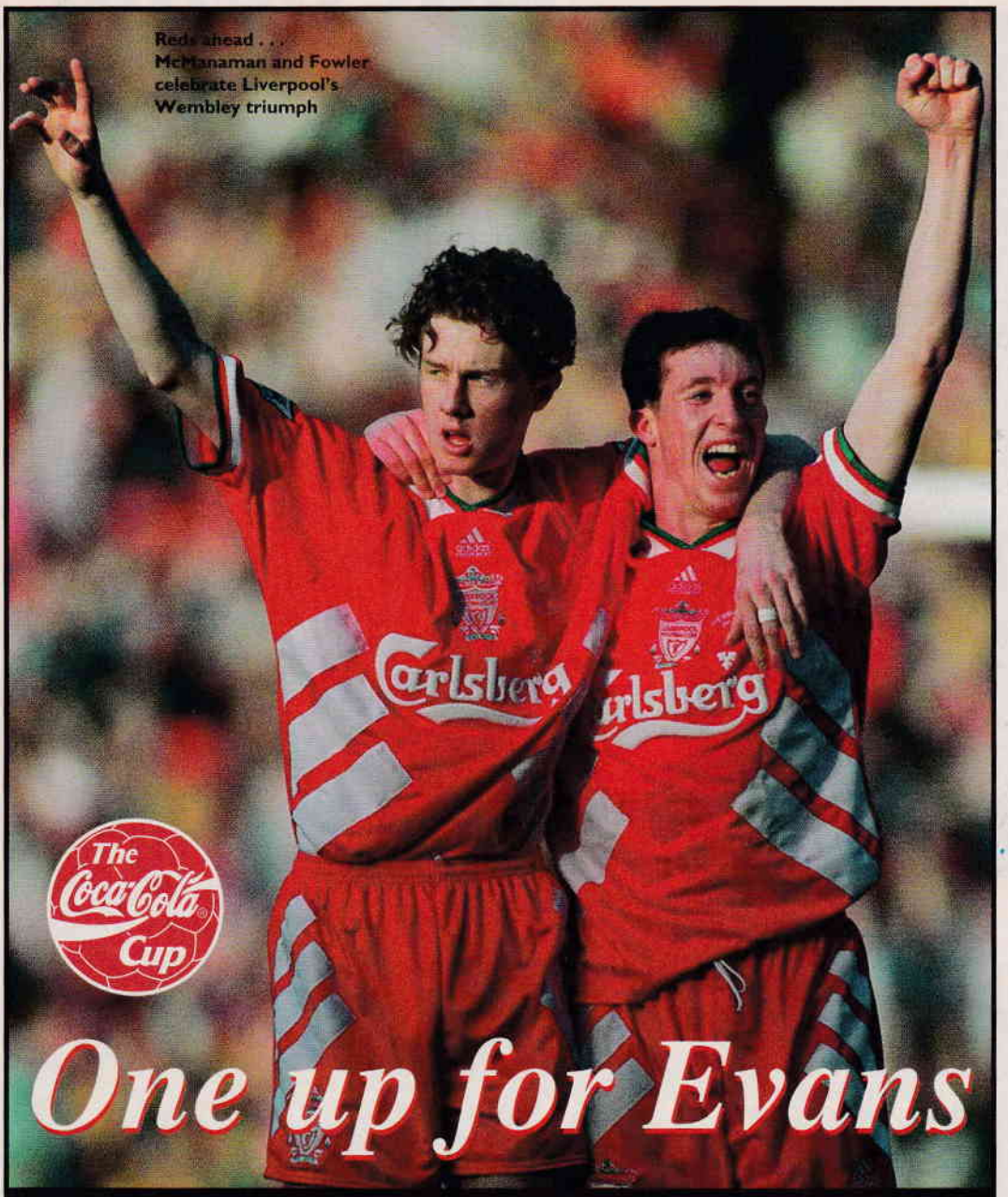


Reds ahead . . . McManaman and Fowler celebrate Liverpool's Wembley triumph

One up for Evans

LIVERPOOL, as expected, won the Coca-Cola Cup Final to earn the first of what may well be several trophies under manager Roy Evans.

His winning of a major "pot" after only 14 months in the job reinforced the widely-held belief that the club board could have saved several millions of pounds and a whole lot of grief if they had given Evans the job four years ago, instead of appointing Graeme Souness.

Four Souness signings costing more than £7million could not get into the squad who went to Wembley and beat Bolton 2-1 in a splendid match, decided by a man who cost nothing.

Steve McManaman's two solo runs and precise scoring finishes will long be remembered, as will the spectacular volley from Alan Thompson that gave Bolton new heart for the closing stages.

Evans has built a strong if unusual side, top-heavy with central defenders but very difficult to master. If Rush and Barnes can galvanise themselves into still more effort next season, a long run in the UEFA Cup seems virtually assured.

A mere nine League appearances preceded Evans's appointment as second-team manager at Anfield 20 years ago. In addition to providing a string of players for the senior squad, his reserve teams won the Central League title nine times in 11 years and laid the foundations for his eventual arrival in the seat previously occupied by Shankly, Paisley, Fagan and Dalglish.

He has coped pretty well so far.

His counterpart at Bolton, Bruce Rioch, is being widely touted as the successor to George Graham at Arsenal. They could do a lot worse.

Rioch's Bolton deserve promotion as reward for an excellent season, even though they just could not do enough to add Liverpool to the other four Premiership clubs they had beaten on the way to Wembley.

They collected £50,000, half Liverpool's reward, for finishing second, and the prize-money may well be only one aspect of the competition due for overhaul.

With wider entrance becoming available to Europe through InterToto, the League Cup, under whatever sponsorship name applies in future, needs streamlining if it is to remain as attractive as it has been in the past.

Playing three of the six stages before the final over two legs, and the others over one, is illogical, mitigating against a true knockout format.

* LIVERPOOL'S Stig-Inge Bjornebye broke a leg three days after playing at Wembley, during a 3-1 Premiership win over Southampton.

DAVID PROLE

England

More questions than answers

ENGLAND'S dismal 0-0 draw with Uruguay raised more questions than it answered, and has left many beginning to wonder just where the team is going.

The Uruguayans came looking for the draw, no question, but England never really caused them any great problems. Alan Shearer's withdrawal through injury was a blow, but Terry Venables's selection policy is now being seriously questioned by the press and the public.

The forward line, led by Teddy Sheringham, hardly had a sniff all night, though Andy Cole – on as a substitute – did hit the crossbar late on.

So, are we any nearer to a side capable of winning the European Championship next summer? Venables certainly thinks so, and he says he has most of the line-up in his head already. The defence more or less picks itself these days, in midfield David Platt and Paul Ince are certain starters if fit, while Darren Anderton and Shearer must also now be considered first choices. That leaves two vacancies, and no clear indication as to who will fill them, though many are now calling for the return of Paul Gascoigne, regardless of his fitness.

Either way, England should surely, by now, be at the stage where they are starting to seriously worry the rest of the European contingent. There was no sign of this at Wembley, and they will have to be far more incisive if they are to triumph on home soil next year.

Domestically, the title race is now a straight fight between Blackburn and Manchester United, with Blackburn the odds-on favourites because they hold an eight-point advantage.

United could argue that Eric Cantona's suspension effectively cost them the championship, but at least he has had his two-week jail sentence overturned on appeal, and he must now do 120 hours of community service teaching kids how to play football.

This has to be the ultimate irony for Cantona, banned from playing the game himself, but obliged by the law to teach it to others.

JOHN KELLY

● NOTTS COUNTY'S relegation struggle was temporarily wiped from the memory, replaced by the happier image of captain Phil Taylor hoisting aloft the Anglo-Italian Cup after a 2-1 win over Ascoli at Wembley.

County took a 13th-minute lead through Agana, but Ascoli's German striker, Oliver Bierhoff, soon created an equaliser, scored by Mirabelli.

The winner came right on half-time as Devlin crossed for White to head emphatically past Bizzarri.

Appropriately, relegation to vanishing point also threatens the Anglo-Italian Cup itself. A crowd of 11,000 promises little more than a journey into oblivion.

AIDAN RADNEDGE

Scotland

Ivan will be a terrible loss

THE termination of Dundee United manager Ivan Golac's contract, only 10 months after he had guided the club to their first Scottish Cup success, may be construed as being for their long-term benefit, but domestic football in Scotland will be the poorer for his absence.

From the moment he arrived in Scotland, announcing that he had learned to speak English by listening to Rolling Stones records, former Partizan Belgrade and Southampton defender Golac pushed himself, and his club, into the media forefront with a series of bizarre quotes, utterances and actions, all of which served to inject a welcome splash of colour.

Acceptance by the media has not been regarded as an important credential by United chairman Jim McLean, but Golac must have felt he had achieved sufficient credit to justify his position when he masterminded the Scottish Cup victory over Rangers. After all, that was the one achievement McLean had failed to reach during his time in charge.

This season, however, showed a different side to United. They lost 5-0 to Hibs on the first day, and a failure to string any kind of prolonged winning run together left them fighting relegation and eliminated from the Scottish Cup in the quarter-finals.

Golac paid the ultimate price for failure, but remained characteristically cheerful and optimistic in the aftermath of his dismissal.

"There's no bitterness from me," he said. "It's the club that is important and I feel I've been successful in the time I've been here. I think I've left a good squad for the next manager."

Aberdeen's troubles also continue, with Roy Aitken cutting his managerial teeth in an unprecedented relegation battle, but Falkirk, helped by the signing of Mo Johnston from Hearts, have pulled away from trouble.

The perennial race for the First Division championship has thrown up, as usual, a highly entertaining dogfight, with Jimmy Nicoll's Raith Rovers, victorious in the Coca-Cola Cup earlier this season and therefore guaranteed a UEFA Cup place, scrapping against Dundee, Dunfermline and Airdrie for the solitary promotion slot.

Rovers even had hopes of a remarkable domestic treble, but Airdrie defeated them in the quarter-final of the Scottish Cup.

For the first time there will be an end-of-season play-off in Scotland, with the team finishing next to bottom of the Premier League taking on the First Division runners-up over two legs. Judging by the calibre of the potential combatants, it should be an intriguing contest.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Davie Cooper 1956-1995

DAVIE COOPER, the former Rangers, Motherwell and Scotland winger, died in Glasgow on March 23, aged 39.

Cooper, who had returned to his first club, Clydebank, in December 1993, had planned to retire from playing at the end of this season.

He suffered a massive brain haemorrhage while helping to make a soccer coaching video at Clyde's Broadwood Stadium, and died in hospital less than 24 hours later.

Cooper, who was widely acknowledged as the most gifted Scottish footballer of his generation, joined Clydebank in 1974 and moved to Rangers three years later, gaining a vast collection of honours over the following 12 years.

He joined Motherwell in 1989, helping them into Europe for the first time and winning the 1991 Scottish Cup.

Cooper was capped 22 times for Scotland, including the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. His six goals included one against Wales in the final qualifying match for that tournament, on the night Jock Stein collapsed and died.

He was looking forward to pursuing a variety of interests, within and outside the game, following his retirement. One was a Soccer Skills course for youngsters in the Clydebank area, which was due to start this summer.

Sadly his outstanding skill, vision and knowledge have now been lost.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Wales

Court case will be vital

AT AROUND the same time this issue hits the news stands, the judgement on the civil action brought by three member clubs of the English FA against the FA of Wales will be due for release.

The three, based on Welsh soil, want to remain in the English system, while the FAW insist on their return to the National League.

UEFA have threatened to withdraw the Konica League's status as a qualifier for their club competitions should the three rebel clubs remain outside FAW jurisdiction, leaving the FAW no option but to defend the action to preserve the League's status.

FIFA vice-president David Will of Scotland gallantly failed in his attempt to find a settlement and thus keep the matter out of the courts. His move collapsed when UEFA, finally, made their views known and refused to negotiate further.

If the clubs remain in England, the Konica League will be finished, making it impossible for the FAW to compromise. The future of Welsh football virtually depends on the outcome.

The Wales squad for the match in Sofia against Bulgaria contained a remarkable selection with Brian Law, the Wolves defender, earning the chance of a second cap four years after his first and two years after he retired from the game with ankle ligament problems.

After a sabbatical in the Himalayas he returned to find the injury had healed itself and his season so far has been outstanding.

In the National League, Bangor City are virtually assured of the title. An 18-point lead is now almost unassailable barring disasters and the fight now centres on the UEFA Cup place and that allocated for the UEFA's new InterToto competition. Up to six sides have a realistic chance of these prestigious places and the honour – and the cash – that goes with them.

The Welsh Cup is at the semi-final stage, with four clubs making their final bid at representing Wales in Europe. Cardiff City play Swansea City, and Wrexham face Merthyr Tydfil, all of them prevented by UEFA from representing Wales after next season's Cup-winners Cup because of their continuing involvement in the English system.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

Northern Ireland

Violence mars Irish Cup

CROWD violence at the end of the match between Portadown and Cliftonville marred Irish Cup quarter-final day.

Portadown conceded an equaliser in the last few seconds, some supporters invaded the pitch, and there was fighting and missiles thrown. And there was further violence at the replay, which Portadown won 1-0.

There has been a tradition of less than friendly rivalry between the two sets of supporters going back several years, and the police and the Irish FA are taking this latest incident very seriously. There will no doubt be repercussions for both clubs.

In the other ties Carrick Rangers upset the odds when they deservedly beat last season's losing finalists, Bangor 2-1, while Ards won a tense tie, 3-2 against Glenavon.

Tempers became heated and referee Frank McDonald showed Ards manager Roy Coyle the red card midway through the second half after a touchline flare up with Glenavon's Ally Mauchlen.

Thankfully the excitement in the other tie, between holders Linfield and the last surviving 'B' Division side, Loughgall, was confined to the pitch.

The outsiders pulled back a first-half goal to earn a draw, and were applauded off by Linfield supporters.

In the replay Loughgall again put up a gallant fight at their compact Lakeview Park ground before a capacity 1,500 attendance, but in injury time of extra time they lost to a goal by Gary Haylock, his 34th of the season.

Gary Erwin's reign as Ballymena United manager was short-lived – four months to be precise. He has been replaced by Alan Fraser, shown the door by Glenavon in November.

Ballymena already are doomed to play in the new eight-team First Division next season, along with Larne, Newry, Ballyclare and Carrick.

Those sure of their places in the elite Premier League are champions-elect Crusaders, Glenavon, Linfield and Portadown, with six clubs being involved in a real dog-fight for the other four places.

Membership of the two divisions is determined on League placings over this season and last, and two of the following will have to settle for 'second class' fare next term: Coleraine, Cliftonville, Ards, Distillery, Glentoran and Bangor.

Despite Glentoran's glorious tradition – the League 19 times and the Cup 15 – they have been struggling to find a winning combination and might have to wait until the last match, against deadly rivals Linfield, until they know their fate.

ROY KITSON

'The story of how Blackburn Rovers have come full circle from founding fathers to p

BLACKBURN ROVERS, for a middle generation of English fans who cannot quite adjust to the club's revival, used to be all about a very different era of English football.

It's an era which has been called The Age of Innocence; those years just before the abolition of the maximum wage which had 'kept players in their place'; the years before the abolition of the retain-and-transfer regulation which gave a club ownership of a player's career.

Those were the years at the end of the 1950s and the start of the 1960s. Blackburn's team then, just too good for the old Second Division and not quite good enough for the old First Division, contained two England regulars in right-half Ronnie Clayton and winger or inside forward Bryan Douglas.

Nowadays they would fall into the catch-all category of 'midfielders'; in their day they were specialists who went to the 1958 World Cup as regular members of the England squad. Today, of course, they would long ago have been snapped up for multi-million-pound transfer fees by one of the giants – a Manchester United or Liverpool or Tottenham . . . or Blackburn Rovers.

The story of how Blackburn Rovers have come full circle from founding fathers to poor relations to League-leaders is a fascinating one. At the heart of the story is money.

In the early days of the old Football League in the 1880s it was the arrival of professionalism – the will and ability to pay players for their talent – which provided the big clubs from Lancashire such as Blackburn and Preston North End with their power. They possessed rich benefactors whose financial generosity spread to football.

Thus Blackburn, founded in 1875, won the FA Cup five times before the turn of the century and maintained proud membership of the First Division until 1936. By now the economic centre of the game had broadened out through the Midlands and the south of England.

Blackburn became a Second Division club, reviving only in the late 1950s thanks to players such as Clayton, Douglas, Peter Dobing and the Welshman Roy Vernon. But the change in the financial balance of the game wrought by the demolition of the maximum wage and the old retain-and-transfer system cost Blackburn dear.

The club was not 'fashionable', nor rich. Players who had stayed for lack of better financial options elsewhere were now lured away. Blackburn went back up to the First Division in 1957, slipped back down in 1966 and then spent most of the 1970s in the old Third Division.

Then came the wind of change. Jack Walker, a steel industry millionaire looking for a way to enjoy his wealth, decided that the club he had supported since boyhood was an ideal 'toy'. Thus Walker came on board, both literally and figuratively.

He is not the club's chairman. That honour remains with Robert Coar. He is, instead, Senior Vice-President. But no-one has any doubt about the power behind the throne, about the power behind manager Kenny Dalglish's cheque-book and about the power turning neglected old Ewood Park into a field of dreams.

Walker, in a manner of media shorthand, is generally referred to as 'the owner' of Blackurn Rovers. In a few months' time he may well be not merely the owner of a football club but the owner of the champions of England.

Walker is a modest man, self-effacing about his business success and careful to avoid a high-profile presence in the political realms of the game. He does not shout about the need for administrative revolution (in the manner of Newcastle's Sir John Hall), he does not take legal issue with the governing bodies (like Tottenham's Alan Sugar) and he does not write a controversial column in his club programme (like Chelsea's Ken Bates).

Wild Rovers . . . leading scorer Alan Shearer; captain Tim Sherwood and record buy Chris Sutton (main pic)

Single-minded is how his approach might be described – and that suits manager Dalglish perfectly.

Dalglish, the man who won a record 102 caps for Scotland; the man who cost Liverpool a then record £440,000 from Celtic as Kevin Keegan's replacement in 1977; the man who took over as Liverpool boss the day after the Heysel Stadium disaster in Brussels; the man who, a year later, became the only player-manager to guide his team to the League-and-Cup double . . . and who, later still, quit Anfield because he could not stand the pressure.

Pressures are very different at Ewood Park. At Liverpool, winning trophies galore was bread-and-butter stuff. At Blackburn, with no mainstream achievement since an FA Cup win in 1928, any success is a bonus to thrill and delight the fans.

Also, Dalglish has been given financial carte-blanche. He does not have to worry, as he did at Liverpool, about how much club income needed to be diverted into stadium redevelopment.

At Blackburn that is no business of his. All he has to worry about is results. In the words of Dalglish's catchphrases, he takes the season "one game at a time," because "you are only as good as your last result."

Ten years ago Blackburn, in the old Second Division, averaged 9,600 fans per home match. Now the average is nearly double, up to 18,000. It would be higher still but for the exigencies of the Taylor Report, enforcing the switch to all-seater stadia. But, as far as possible, Blackburn pack in the old fans and the new ones to cheer the exploits of the big-money signings, from Tim Flowers in goal to the SAS, Chris Sutton and the League's leading scorer Alan Shearer, in attack.

Dalglish has spent relentlessly putting together a team to challenge Manchester United and capitalise on the shake-out which, temporarily, at least, dimmed the lights at Liverpool after Dalglish's departure. In four years Dalglish has spent more than £24million in mainstream purchases. This was far more than Manchester United's Alex Ferguson in more than double the time – until Ferguson recently splashed out a British record £7million on Newcastle striker Andy Cole.

Last season Blackburn threatened United's grip on the Premiership leadership without ever suggesting they had the brilliance to reach out and grasp the title. They pulled back a 16-point deficit at one stage but lacked the consistency and self-confidence to finish the job.

This season is different. Blackburn have strengthened their attack with the acquisition of Sutton but, most significantly, United have lost their most inspirational talent in Eric Cantona. His two-footed assault on an abusive spectator at Crystal Palace has cost far more than 'merely' a personal suspension to the end of the season plus a £20,000 fine . . . it has probably cost United a League title hat-trick.

After all, for Blackburn Rovers early exits from the FA Cup, the Coca-Cola League Cup and the UEFA Cup can only prove blessings in diguise. Single-minded men such as Walker and Dalglish and their footballer proteges are single-minded enough to bring home the club's first League championship since 1914.

Blackburn Rovers, backed by Jack Walker's millions, are laughing all the way from the bank to the League title. Jonathan Shallard reports on the team that Jack built

Rovers

THE BIG MONEY MEN

PLAYERS BOUGHT *(present squad):*

Tim FLOWERS (goalkeeper)	£2.4million
Henning BERG (defender)	£500,000
Colin HENDRY (defender)	£700,000
Jeff KENNA (defender)	£1.2million
Graeme LE SAUX (defender)	£1.2million
David BATTY (midfield)	£2.4million
Stuart RIPLEY (midfield)	£1.3million
Tim SHERWOOD (midfield)	£500,000
Kevin GALLACHER (forward)	£1.5million
Mike NEWELL (forward)	£1.1million
Alan SHEARER (forward)	£3.6million
Chris SUTTON (forward)	£5.0million
Paul WARHURST (utility)	£2.7million
Total:	***£24.1million***

THE MANAGER

Kenny Dalglish (born March 4, 1951). International for Scotland. Clubs: Celtic, Liverpool. Winner of 25 major trophies as player and manager. Also picked up 102 caps (a record for Scotland) and 30 goals (joint record with Denis Law). Dalglish's signing for Celtic was the club's greatest coup – aside from their European triumph in 1967. He went on to inspire the club to more great deeds before joining Liverpool in 1977 for a then record £440,000, to replace Kevin Keegan. Became an Anfield legend, confirmed when he guided them to the League-and-Cup double as player-manager in 1986. After a brief 'retirement', he returned to management to guide Blackburn Rovers – as he hopes – to their first League championship in 81 years.

Return

Los Millonarios

River Plate just keep rolling along. Eric Weil sees a bright future for Argentina's top club

CLUB ATLETICO RIVER PLATE – an all-sports club like most in Argentina – are the country's most successful side. Out of 86 tournaments played since professional soccer was introduced in 1931 – some years there are two, as now – they have won 24, way ahead of their traditional rivals, Boca Juniors, on 16.

An all-time 'league table' gives River Plate 3199 points with Boca Juniors second on 2999.

River Plate were founded on May 25, 1901, as a result of the fusion of two teams of students – La Rosales and Santa Rosa – and took their name from the river on whose banks they played their early games in the Boca district of Buenos Aires.

This is where their great rivalry with another team from the same district, Boca Juniors, began.

They are still nicknamed 'Millonarios' because they were the first club to spend big money on transfer fees when professionalism began. They eventually moved away from the district and exactly 37 years after their foundation they inaugurated their 80,000-capacity Monumental stadium in the other end of town, in the Nunez district. The stadium, the venue for the 1978 World Cup Final, is still the country's largest and best.

River Plate, who have never been out of the professional First Division – now the National Championship – won this season's opening championship unbeaten.

They also gained their highest points percentage (81.58) since 1937, with a 12-7-0 record.

This was the team that Daniel Passarella built by gradually bringing in more and more youngsters from the junior divisions, along with the addition of a few cleverly chosen and more experienced imports.

Passarella, who spent most of his professional playing career with River Plate and captained Argentina's 1978 World Cup team, took over as coach in 1990, winning the championship in his first season.

Passarella became national team coach last September and left his long-time assistant, Americo Gallego, temporarily in charge until the end of the year. Gallego, one of the 1978 World Cup winners and at one time holder of a record 77 caps, had already arranged to join Passarella's national coaching staff, and could not be persuaded to stay at the club after the end of 1994.

In between, however, the team went through 24 League and Cup games under him without defeat (in 90 minutes). Yet it was not all that easy – 11 of these games were drawn and another 16 won by one-goal margins. But River showed more consistency than others and ended the 19-game championship with a comfortable five-point lead over San Lorenzo.

River Plate's strength in depth is such that they can field two top-class teams with little or nothing to choose between the two teams.

They can call upon 10 past and present Argentinian and Uruguayan internationals and three other players who are in the current Argentinian national squad. This makes selection difficult and frequent team changes may be the cause of some lack of understanding, especially in defence.

They overcome this, however, because firstly they are seldom pressed and secondly because their individual talent is superior to all their rivals in a league where the general standard of play is not particularly high at the moment. River Plate also show most variations in attack.

Enzo Francescoli, the idol of their fans, is back after eight years in Italy, and has made a great difference. At 34, Uruguayan international Francescoli still makes the wheels go round. He also fixed the team's poor record with penalties and free-kicks and finished as championship top scorer, with most of his 12 goals coming from dead-ball situations.

The arrival of goalkeeper German Burgos and defender Roberto Ayala from FC Oeste also strengthened the defence. Goalkeeper was a weak spot when World Cup keeper Sergio Goycochea suddenly lost form and then left the club.

There was no strong reserve, although Joaquin Trigoytia, one of the outstanding players in the recent South American Under-20 Championship, should be in the first team soon.

Ayala, only 21, is considered the best libero in the country and Francescoli does not hesitate to liken him to Franco Baresi. And then there is Ariel Ortega, who made a brief but sensational appearance in the 1994 World Cup. He is considered one of the best forwards in the country – difficult to mark and more like Diego Maradona than anybody.

The parade of top players does not stop there, and the situation often has been like this in the past. Which makes one wonder why River have won South America's major club trophy – the Libertadores Cup – only once, in 1986 (when they also went on to win the World Club Cup in Tokyo) despite having qualified for the tournament 15 times.

This year they are playing in the Cup for the 16th time as 1993-94 national opening champions, and hope to rectify this poor record.

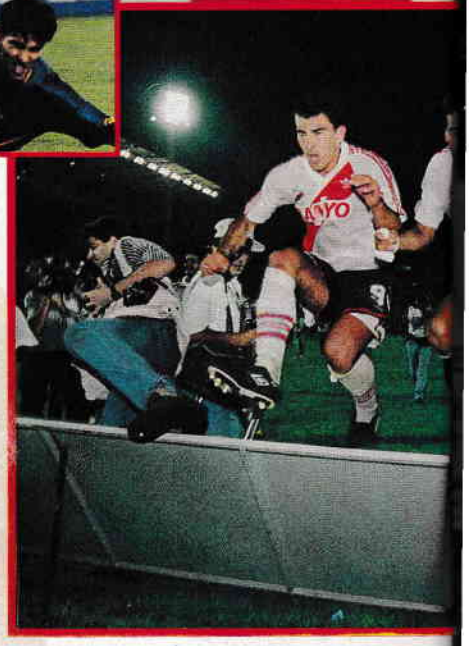


Plate class . . . Sergio Berti (right) and Walter Silvani (left); Nestor Cedres, Jose Luis Villarreal and Ernesto Corti jump to it (below left to right)

CLUB ATLETICO RIVER PLATE
Founded May 25, 1901.
Colours White shirts with diagonal red bands, black shorts, white socks with red hoops.
Stadium 'Monumental', Avenida Figueroa Alcorta 7567, Buenos Aires.
Capacity 80,000 (43,000 seats, 37,000 standing).
President Alfredo Davicce.
Coach Carlos Babington.
Honours Argentinian championship 1932, 1936, 1937, 1941, 1942, 1945, 1947, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1975 (1st Div & National), 1977, 1979, 1st Div & National 1980, 1981, 1985-6, 1989-90, 1991-92 (Opening Champ), 1993-94, 1994-95 (Opening Champ). Libertadores Cup 1986. Inter-American Cup 1987, Intercontinental Cup 1986.

The squad

THE COACH
Carlos BABINGTON
Former Argentinian international midfielder who played the 1974 World Cup. Nicknamed 'El Ingles', he coached Huracan (his former club), Banfield and Racing Club with some success before joining River in succession to Americo Gallego

New coach ...
Carlos Babington

THE PLAYERS
German BURGOS
Goalkeeper. Aged 26
(born, April 16, 1969).
Guarantees security and presence where it was missing before his transfer from FC Oeste last year. Also good with high centres, but he still needs experience.

Osvaldo SODERO
Goalkeeper. Aged 30
(born July 17, 1964).
After lengthy reserve action he was given several extended runs in first team and mixed good performances with bad. Not quite up to standard of rest, but responded well whenever called on during the last championship.

Ricardo ALTAMIRANO
Defender. Aged 29
(born December 12, 1965).
Fast flank defender who did not quite hit it off in the national team, despite winning 20 caps, but is undisputed in his club position, having improved his concentration.

Roberto AYALA
Defender. Aged 22
(born April 14, 1973).
His rise to the top has been phenomenal – debut with FC Oeste in 1993, transfer to River Plate last year, where he made a tremendous difference to the defence and has became club captain. He has made national team place his own since Daniel Passarella took over last year. An elegant personality, still improving.

Ernesto CORTI
Defender. Aged 32
(born March 21, 1963).
Experienced defender with great fighting spirit who could walk into any club, but is in and out of the team at River Plate. Two international caps.

Hernan DIAZ
Defender. Aged 30
(born February 26, 1965).
Vital to the last four title-winning teams, intelligent and effective at breaking up attacks all over the place thanks to his great stamina. Often proves a match winner. Fifteen international caps.

Pablo LAVALLEN
Defender. Aged 22
(born September 7, 1972).
Product of junior teams, and has to fight for his place. Fast left-footer who moves up well.

Guillermo RIVAROLA
Defender. Aged 26
(born October 11, 1968).
Utility player who can be relied on for a good if not outstanding performance. A luxury reserve.

Jose ALBORNOZ
Midfielder. Aged 24
(born December 18, 1970).
Excellent ball control and passing, but has been out of team a lot due to injuries.

Matias ALMEYDA
Midfielder. Aged 22
(born February 21, 1973).
Great stamina and effective ball-winner, but he needs to improve his passing.

Leonardo ASTRADA
Midfielder. Aged 25
(born January 6, 1970).
Had a lengthy run in national team (winning 14 caps), but did not make the World Cup squad. At River Plate he is often the barometer of the team with his great experience, calmness and tactical knowledge.

Sergio BERTI
Midfielder. Aged 26
(born February 17, 1969).
Attacking player with good ball control. Can change rhythm of a game and create chances, but has a tendency to be erratic. Three caps.

Gabriel Nestor CEDRES
Midfielder. Aged 25
(born March 3, 1970).
Uruguayan international who failed to show his potential last year when he had to play in an unaccustomed position due to injuries, but is now back as an attacking midfielder and is becoming one of the team's stalwarts.

Marcelo GALLARDO
Midfielder. Aged 19
(born January 18, 1976).
Made his debut last year after coming up from junior teams and is still youngest of the squad, yet is ahead of his years in technique, thinking and play-making. Has great future, also in national team, but must get stronger.

Julio TORESANI
Midfielder. Aged 27
(born December 5, 1967).
Great fighting spirit and hard worker, but his lack of technique has made him unpopular with the fans.

Jose Luis VILLARREAL
Midfielder. Aged 29
(born March 17, 1966).
A series of injuries cost him his national place, but when fit he is an outstanding attacking half. Four international caps.

Facundo VILLALBA
Midfielder. Aged 21
(born June 20, 1973).
More of a forward, and a fine finisher, but due to the abundance of good players has had few chances.

Gabriel AMATO
Forward. Aged 24
(born October 22, 1970).
Acquired last year chiefly as a reserve and frequently goes on as substitute. A fighter with a strong shot.

Hernan CRESPO
Forward. Aged 19
(born July 5, 1975).
A natural opportunist and good finisher, although injury combined with some private problems temporarily stopped his improvement.

Enzo FRANCESCOLI
Forward. Aged 33
(born November 12, 1961).
Veteran Uruguayan international, his return after eight years in Italy has had a huge impact. Even if past his best, he is still a great forward and has added aggression to the attack. He draws heavy marking, which leaves others free, organises well and has solved two weaknesses – free-kicks and penalties.

Triumphant return ...
... Enzo Francescoli

Ariel ORTEGA
Forward. Aged 21
(born March 4, 1974).
One of the best forwards in Argentina today, with outstanding ball control and difficult to mark. Scores vital goals, too. Ten international caps.

Walter SILVANI
Forward. Aged 23
(born May 11, 1971).
A strong-shooting forward and scorer who rarely gets a starting place. Has put up his best performances on loan to Argentinos Juniors. Not popular with River Plate fans.

Argentina

Africans set the market alight

THE second half of the Argentine season – the national closing championship – began with clubs playing without their internationals, who were preparing and then playing in the Pan-American Games.

The opening championship winners, River Plate, started without four absentees – defender Fabian Ayala, midfielder Daniel Gallardo, and forwards Ariel Ortega and Jorge Crespo – virtually the backbone of the side. They lost their first two games.

Clubs are allowed to sign up to two players between the opening and closing championships, and a sluggish market was set alight by the arrival of two internationals from Africa – Alphonse Tchami from Cameroon and Ernest Mtawali from Malawi.

Tchami, a tall, strong striker, was an immediate success at Boca Juniors, who spent most of the money they got from Brazil's Palmeiras for Argentinian international midfielder Mancuso. Tchami, who had been playing for Odense in Denmark, is 24 and has 24 caps.

He laid on one goal and almost scored another in Boca's opening 2-0 win against Banfield and scored both in the following week's 2-0 win against Newell's Old Boys. Argentina's leading sports magazine, *El Grafico*, had his picture on the cover two weeks running.

Mtawali has impressed in midfield for Newell's Old Boys, but one wonders where they got the money from. They are reported to be seven million dollars in debt of which $1.7million is owed to their top-heavy professional staff of 38.

After two games only four clubs had full points – Independiente, Libertadores Cup holders Velez Sarsfield, Lanus and Boca Juniors.

Lanus, who opened with a 3-2 away victory over River Plate, cannot afford to enter the transfer market, which does not worry progressive coach Patricio Hernandez. The players, training twice a day for 38 days before the restart, are in top shape.

Diego Maradona had been crying out for reinforcements all summer as the club he has been coaching, Racing, failed to win any of four summer tournament games. Although a big club, Racing's financial situation did not permit them to enter the market.

Maradona the coach is unlikely to set the world alight as he did as a player. One similarity, however, is that he tends to miss several training sessions a week.

ERIC WEIL

Uruguay

THE start of the Uruguayan season was held up by the same problem as last year.

There is a law which stops clubs from lining up players at the start of the season if they are owed money by their clubs and it so happens that 11 of the 13 First Division clubs owe players more than a million dollars.

Nacional are the worst offenders with $436,580 in debts to players. The other big club, Penarol, are up to date.

The championship has been postponed for a week, with the Uruguayan FA trying to find a solution, but it is a persistent problem.

Gates at matches between the 11 smaller clubs rarely reach 3,000, and the sales of players to foreign clubs – which had long been a lifeline – have slowed down considerably.

ERIC WEIL

Bother on the border

ESCALATING border skirmishes between Peru and Ecuador are causing problems for the South American soccer scene.

The South American under-17 Championship, scheduled to be played in Peru from February 10-19, was postponed due to the war and no new date has so far been set.

The event will have to be played soon, because it counts as the continent's qualifier for the world championship, scheduled for Ecuador from August 3-20. If the war continues much longer, the venue will have to be changed.

Ecuador have confirmed that they will be staging the world championship at the scheduled dates, but whether FIFA will agree to this is another matter.

Peru and Ecuador are drawn in the same first-round group in the senior South American Championship, the Copa America, to be staged in Uruguay from July 5-20. The South American Confederation (CONMEBOL) may decide to change the draw because of the political situation.

Organisers of the Copa America have run into financial problems. Uruguay last year pledged $9.5million to help stage the tournament, but the government recently changed and there are problems in obtaining the money.

There are now six club cups in Southn America – Libertadores, Super, Gold, Masters, CONMEBOL and Recopa – and only the first two are of real importance.

Only Olimpia (Paraguay) and Cruzeiro (Brazil) are willing to play in this year's Masters Cup (for winners of the Super Cup) which is, in turn, for Libertadores Cup winners.

Argentina's Independiente, Racing Club and Boca Juniors and Brazil's Sao Paulo have withdrawn due to fixture congestion, and Velez Sarsfield and compatriots Independiente, holders of the Libertadores and Super cups respectively, were very reluctant to go to Japan to play for the Recopa.

ERIC WEIL

Boca boy . . . Cameroon international Alphonse Tchami

Colombia

Foreigners to the fore

THE Colombian season started with 11 of the 16 First Division clubs having a total of 33 foreigners, including 11 Uruguayans and seven Argentinians.

The main moves were those of Uruguayan Jorge 'Polilla' Da Silva from America to Millonarios, and America's signing of Bolivian international midfielder Marco Etcheverry from Chile's Colo Colo.

There are only two foreign coaches – Serbian Vladimir Popovic with Millonarios and Uruguayan Julio Comesana, who moved from Atletico Junior to Independiente Santa Fe.

Other changes include the introduction of drug testing for the first time in the regular championship, after it was put in force in last year's final round. Two players per team from four of the eight matches will be tested each playing day.

The current short championship is due to end on June 14 and a new season will stat in August (after the South American Championship) to run during the same period as in Europe.

ERIC WEIL

Bolivian import . . . America's new signing Marco Etcheverry

Brazil

Rocket for ref in Romario row

YOU CAN'T always blame Romario when he lands in trouble. Sometimes you can, as his volatile history shows only too well, but he's not always at fault.

All players ride their luck, and Romario is no exception. If a referee makes a mistake, he will take advantage if at all possible. That's human nature, after all.

But nobody could have anticipated the furore that followed his two goals in a 3-1 win for Flamengo against America in the Rio championship.

Referee Jorge Rabelo has been suspended for a week by Aulio Nazareno, president of the Rio Federation referee commission, after awarding a penalty for a foul that few if any others in the stadium could discern.

Romario scored from the spot, for the sixth time since his return to South America from Barcelona, but upset Nazareno by stopping in his run-up, then starting again.

"Videos show that he has done this in all his penalties this season," growled Nazareno. "I have given at least 50 warnings to referees that they must not favour Romario. He can zig-zag, jump, run backwards or upside down, but he can't stop in his run. That's prohibited."

Not by Rabelo, it wasn't. He allowed the goal, then allowed another when Romario, seemingly yards offside, collected the ball and scored to put Flamengo 2-1 ahead.

Linesman Guilherme Fernandes kept his flag by his side. Rabelo developed a sudden interest in the grass around the centre spot. But the rest of the arena erupted.

America players jostled the non-flagger and the non-whistler. America officials joined in. America fansran on to the pitch and joined in, too. Then even some journalists left their seats and added to the throng. Romario, never renowned for his patience, was involved in a row with opposing players.

Eventually, after police spent 10 minutes clearing up, the game started again, and Flamengo promptly scored again for a 3-1 victory to stay two points clear of Botafogo in the final stage of the competition. Romario, helped by all those penalties, is top scorer, with 19 goals.

But lucky Flamengo are winning few friends. Nazareno - the impartial boss of the impartial referees - described Rabelo's performance as "terrible". Carlos Montenegro, president of Botafogo, said he was against the use of foreign referees, but "maybe they are necessary for Botafogo games". A Fluminense vice-president, Alcides Antunes, claimed that Flamengo were regularly being favoured by refereeing errors. The *O Globo* newspaper inferred that five Flamengo games had been decided by refereeing mistakes.

Trouble-maker . . . Romario

And a former ref, Armando Marques, said that in one recent game a player had been sent off by an official who screamed abuse at him.

Marques added: "I was shocked by Rabelo's appearance at the Flamengo-America game. His belly was falling over his pants."

Just to refresh your memory . . . a year ago the Brazil Federation introduced a campaign to rid the game of ocrruption, especially among referees.

● IN THE Sao Paulo championship, Corinthians beat Palmeiras 2-1, with Marcelinho scoring a last-minute winner, and joined Portuguesa in top place. Marcelinho's celebrations included a sprint to the far end of the pitch, where he kicked over a corner flag and collapsed, weeping with joy.

RINO LANDA

MEN IN THE NEWS

Irish Mac makes a mark

PEOPLE in Boston were disappointed during the World Cup finals when the Republic of Ireland were not drawn to play group games there.

Boston, which has a large Irish community, got Argentina – and Argentina did not bring their Irish connection either.

He is Carlos Javier MacAllister, a fourth-generation Irishman, who was brought into the national squad to bolster up the defence after that 5-0 beating by Colombia in a World Cup qualifying game in September, 1993.

He earned four caps in warm-up games and did not entirely convince, but it came as a surprise when he was left out of the final 22.

MacAllister was born in Santa Rosa in the Argentinian Pampas 27 years ago, but he does not remember which part of Ireland his ancestors came from, nor does he speak English or Gaelic.

Mac attack . . . Boca Juniors' Carlos MacAllister

He is nevertheless proud of his ancestry and the fairly numerous MacAllister clan in Argentina, who are all related. On the field he is a notable defender with Boca Juniors, and stands out because of his red hair. And he frequently moves up to score.

After playing with a local team in Santa Rosa, he was signed by Argentinos Juniors when 17 and made his debut with them a year later.

When MacAllister moved to Boca Juniors in 1992, he was replaced by his brother, Carlos Patricio, who is two years older but made his First Division debut with Estudiantes de La Plata two years later. Carlos Patricio, who later played in Mexico with Universidad de Tamaulipas, is now back in Argentina with a non-league club.

● **OSCAR ROBERTO DE GODOI**, the referee in charge of the Sao Paulo State Championship derby match between Corinthians and Sao Paulo, was persuaded to take drug and alcohol tests after Sao Paulo defender Junior Baiano complained that the official had been drunk on the pitch.

De Godoi's handling of the game angered officals of both clubs. He sent off five players and handed out 11 yellow cards, including five in as many minutes.

● **ROMARIO'S** most recent successes are being put down to his particpation in a Japanese Messianic Church which has branches in Brazil. It has been claimed that the Flamengo forward received a 40-minute healing from one of the church's members before scoring all of his side's goals in the recent 3-2 win over Botafogo.

"The healing helped him overcome his difficulties," said church minister Caetana. "By applying magnetic bioenergy through the hands, the player's physical, mental and spirtual energies are cleansed and balanced."

Since his return to Rio, Romario's off-the-field antics have captured more headlines than his performances on the pitch. His wife recently won a separation suit, ending their turbulent seven-year marriage.

● **COLOMBIAN ARLEY BETANCOURT** was taken to a police station after punching a referee during a Panamerican Games semi-final match against Mexico. Betancourt lashed out at Ronal Guitierrez Castro of Costa Rica after the official had sent the player off in the 2-1 defeat by Mexico. The 20-year-old Betancourt was later released after questioning.

● **ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT CARLOS MENEM**, a great soccer fan, took the field again at 63 to line up with the national team against veteran all-stars in a charity match in Mar del Plata. His side won 6-1 and Menem took two penalties, scoring from one of them. The all-star line-up included former internationals such as Fillol, Hector Enrique, Giusti and Tapia.

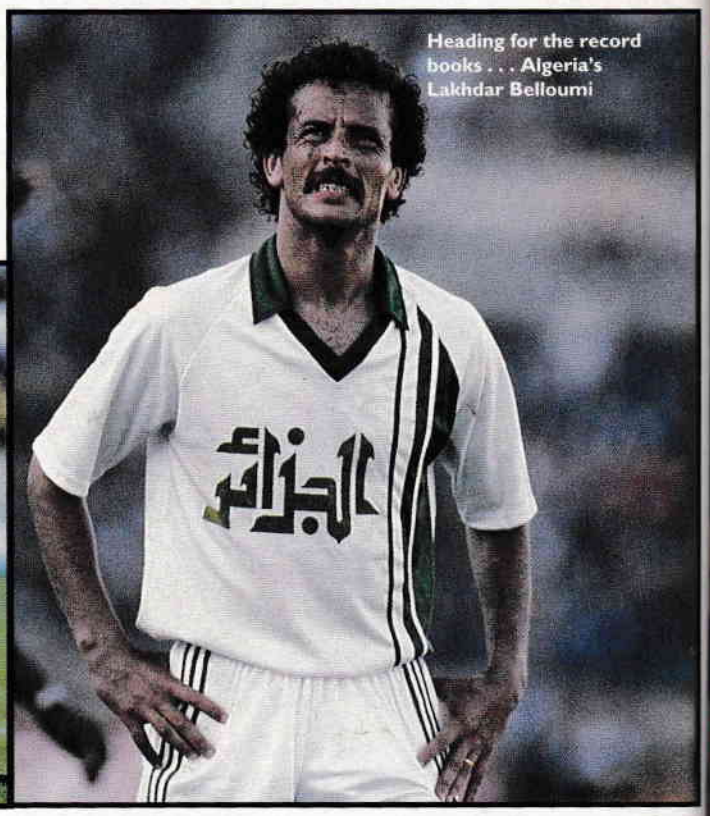
● **MARIO KEMPES** played for his first Argentinian club, Rosario Central, in a friendly against their town rivals, Newell's Old Boys. But the match was suspended when fans started throwing stones and other objects on to the field as the second half of this always electric derby was about to start.

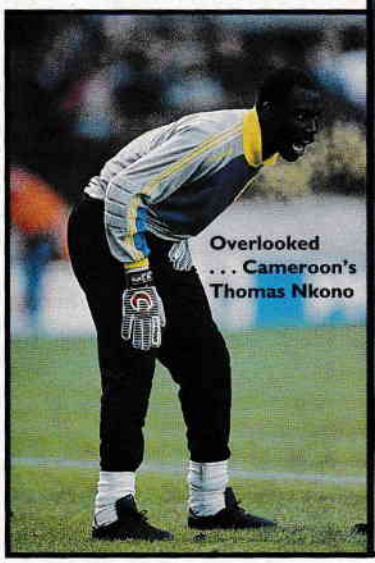
● **DIEGO MARADONA**, now coach of Racing Club in Argentina, said that he would play again and show FIFA that he could still score beautiful goals when his drug suspension ends in September. Then he said it was all a joke and that his time had passed. Then he confirmed that he probably would play for Racing Club next season. All in the same week!

ERIC WEIL

On the record

Mark Gleeson looks at the vexed question of full international caps and discovers that, in Africa, officialdom has failed to play fair


Heading for the record books . . . Algeria's Lakhdar Belloumi


Overlooked . . . Cameroon's Thomas Nkono

IS Majed Abdullah really the most-capped footballer of all time?

FIFA recently accepted the Saudi Arabian Federation's claim that Abdullah had played 147 full international matches, putting him well ahead of the 125 achieved by former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

Now Algerian officials are saying that they have a claim to second place behind Abdullah, because Lakhdar Belloumi won 145 caps.

Belloumi scored the winning goal against West Germany in the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain, and is a former African Footballer of the Year.

But the claims of African players open up a whole Pandora's box. Record-keeping on the African continent, even today, can be best described as a nightmare.

Administrative inefficiency on the part of individual football associations, as well as the Confederation of African Football, means accurate tallies are almost impossible to keep.

Reporting, and the statistics that normally go with coverage of recognised internationals, is another weak link on the African continent. Few, if any newspapers or magazines, keep statistics or publish team line-ups, leaving the history of many international matches 'gone with the wind'.

CAF, whose headquarters are in Cairo where, ironically, Belloumi still faces charges for an alleged assault, keeps records of all its official competitions, including matches at national team level in the African Nations Cup.

FIFA has the records, littered with spelling errors, of all African qualifiers for the World Cup finals.

For some African countries that would be the sum total of their international involvement, but many others also play frequent friendly internationals or compete in regional tournaments.

The match reports of these games are not kept by either CAF or FIFA and have mostly faded into thin air, making it impossible to keep an accurate tally of caps for African internationals.

And here we are not talking about games decades ago, but about full international matches played only last year. Under FIFA guidelines, host associations are obliged to send in match reports of the 'A' internationals, particularly now that international ranking systems have been introduced.

But Africa is inherently weak in fulfilling this obligation, even in some of the more supposedly adept associations such as South Africa or Ivory Coast. Reports from some of their recent matches were not even posted to Zurich.

Other games, like a series of friendlies between Bostswana and Namibia last September were not even acknowledged in the list of 'A' internationals published by FIFA at the end of the year, presumably because they did not even know that the games had taken place.

'Don't be surprised if some unheard-of Tanzanian suddenly somersaults past Abdullah on the list of all-time internationals'

The official match reports should carry details of line-ups, substitutions, timings of goals, cautions and other relevant items. From an accurate list, a tally of caps for an individual player can be collated. Alas, for Africa, this is impossible.

The solution would be to enforce the reporting of such games more strictly by fining associations that do not submit proper reports, even for friendlies. Nothing is more effective in Africa than the threat of losing money.

When I raised this with CAF secretary-general Mustapha Fahmy, he shrugged and said: "We have enough problems just trying to get the reports of official competition matches."

FIFA, too, is pretty blase about it. Its list of 'A' internationals for 1994 includes a number of fixtures which should not count as proper internationals. The match between Ivory Coast and Liberia in June, for example, was between two military teams, and the East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup at the end of the year is littered with teams who are not full representatives sides.

Kenya, as hosts of the tournament, slit their national side into two to make up the numbers, yet are claiming full representative status.

Tanzania, on the other hand, limit selection of their team for the annual tournament to players from the mainland because Zanzibar, a non-FIFA member, also send a team to the tournament. That Tanzanian side, therefore, are not a full representative team and should not be afforded the status of an 'A' international.

When I contacted FIFA to point this out, they said they had to follow the national association and that if Tanzania regarded the game as a full international, then so be it.

This is nonsense, because countries will be able to claim all sorts of obscure matches as full internationals and give players caps they should not be entitled to. Do not be surprised now if some unheard-of Tanzanian suddenly somersaults past Abdullah on the list of all-time internationals.

Recognising games that should be regarded as internationals also has some bearing on the FIFA World Ranking, and would be unfair if they are to be used in the future to seed teams for various competitions.

And have FIFA or CAF given any regard to the fact that poor record-keeping and the lack of pressure on national associations to provide proper documentation surely have deprived several big-name African players of a place in the record books?

Roger Milla, for example, played more than 20 years for the Cameroon national side, but whether he ever reached a century of caps will never be known. And what of Thomas Nkono, Joseph-Antoine Bell, Stephen Keshi, Eugene Kabongo, Jules Bocande . . . all robbed of a place in football's heritage.

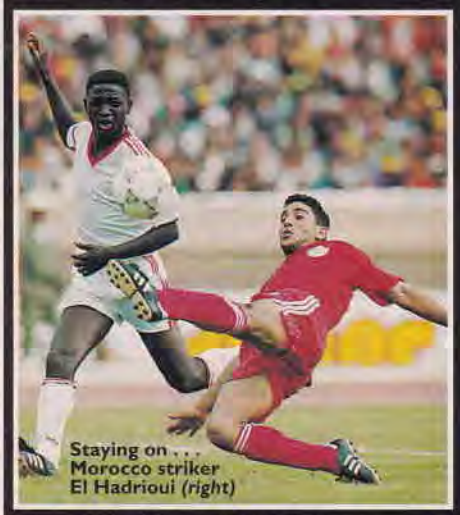
NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

MOHEEN SALAH and Alaa Nabil will handle the coaching of the Egyptian national team following the departure of Noel De Ruiter. Salah was previously De Ruiter's deputy while Nabil is a former goalkeeper at Arab Contractors. At Zamalek, Austrian Alfred Riedl has been replaced as coach by Taha Basry.

MOROCCO

SECOND DIVISION clubs Olympique Khouribga and Raja Ben-Mellal were surprising qualifiers for the semi-finals of the Throne Cup. Olympique, relegated last season, beat First Division leaders Wydad Casablanca 1-0 in their quarter-final match while Beni-Mellal upset Credit Agricole 2-0. Olympique went on to qualify for the final with a 1-0



Staying on . . . Morocco striker El Hadrioui *(right)*

win over Ittihad Tanger, but Raja's dreams, were ended by Fath US of Rabat, who won their semi-final 2-1.

Former national team coach Abdelkhalek Louzani has left Kawkab Marrakesh after a run-in with players and supporters. Kawkab Marrakesh have also pulled out of this year's African Cup-winners Cup. At Raja Casablanca, Belgian Jean Thissen, the former national team coach of Gabon, has been hired as coach.

The Moroccan national team won their first match under new Brazilian coach Gilson Siguera Nunes, beating Senegal 2-0 at home in a friendly. Nunes has had a complete clear out of the side that went to last year's World Cup finals, retaining just Abdelkarim El Hadrioui and reserve goalkeeper El Brazi.

TUNISIA

ESPERANCE are headed for another title with a two-point lead over nearest challengers Etoile Sahel as the championship heads for the final stretch. Club Africain are third and fourth-placed CS Sfaxien still have outsiders' hopes.

MARK GLEESON

SOUTHERN AFRICA

LESOTHO

INTERNATIONAL midfielder Lekoane Lekoane, who played a leading role in Lesotho's 2-0 win over Cameroon in an African Nations Cup qualifier last November, was injured in a car accident and is expected to be out of soccer for some months. Matlama won the pre-season Charity Shield with a 3-2 win over League champions Royal Lesotho Defence Force.

SOUTH AFRICA

WITS UNIVERSITY, coached by former Sunderland player John Lathan, won their first trophy in 10 years by beating fancied Kaizer Chiefs in the final of the Top Eight Cup. Two goals from 18-year-old Bradley Carnell, who is heading to Newcastle United for a trial in the English summer, won the game for the students in front of a stunned crowd at Soccer City in Johannesburg. Chiefs are the early leaders in the League with a 100 per cent record after four matches. The AmaKhosi, who have had a barren two seasons by their own high standards, are seemingly finding their form again under Peruvian-born coach Augusto Palacios.

MARK GLEESON

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

PREVOYANCE YAOUNDE are unbeaten after five rounds of the new championship and have already opened up a four-point lead over Racing Bafoussam, Stade Bandjoun and Canon Yaounde.

GABON

PETROSPORT have signed Buayi Kidoda, a member of the Daring Club Motema Pembe team that won last year's African Cup-winners Cup. The Zairean international scored two goals as Petrosport won 2-0 away against Inter Club of Congo in their CAF Cup first round, first leg match.

MARK GLEESON

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

KENYA have been fined a paltry $5,000 for withdrawing from hosting next year's African Nations Cup. The CAF also fined 10 other countries for their withdrawal from the qualifying competition after initially entering the event. They are Benin, the Cape Verde Islands, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, the Seychelles and Swaziland.

Danish coach Jack Jonson has returned to Gor Mahia, Kenya's most popular club. He was banned five years ago for life but the ban has now been lifted.

MARK GLEESON

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

THE NEW League season has kicked off with the First Division divided into two groups of 10 clubs. The top three in each group will then play a final round to decide the title. Champions Dragons Oueme pulled out of their African Champions Cup first round, first leg tie against US Chaouia of Algeria. The team felt their lives would be in jeopardy after the spate of attacks on foreigners and the assassination of the Algerian Football Association president in January. Dragons had wanted the game played at a neutral ground but this was turned down by the CAF.

GUINEA

FORMER Soviet international Vladimir Muntaine, who played in the World Cup finals in Mexico 25 years ago, is to assist Guinea's coach Ali Badara Keita in the country's attempts at qualifying for next year's African Nations Cup finals. Muntaine was previously coaching in Madagascar.

MALI

A LACK of finances has caused a suspension of the championship. The government has refused a request for support from the Malian Federation.

NIGER

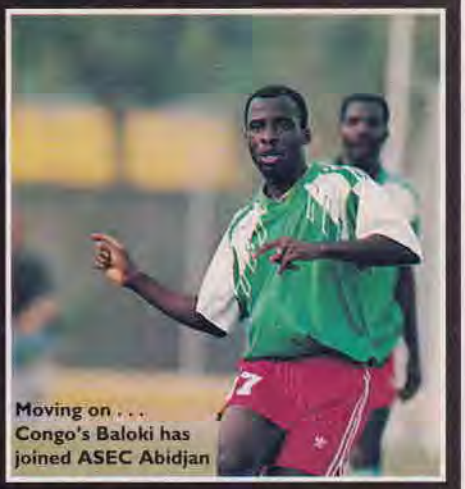
NATIONAL team coach Soumaila Tiemago was sacked after an indifferent run of form in the African Nations Cup qualifiers.

NIGERIA

WORLD CUP squad member Emeka Ezcogu, formerly with Kipest-Honved in Hungary and Danish club Aab Aalborg, was injured in a car accident in Nigeria on Christmas Eve and hospitalised for several weeks. The transfer market was busy ahead of the start of the new league season. International defender Ajibade Balade and goalkeeper Ike Shorunmu moved to Shooting Stars while 1991 League champions Julius Berger re-signed Moussa Matounji and Thomas Agueh from Benin.

IVORY COAST

BIG-SPENDING ASEC Abidjan and Africa Sports have been signing more foreign players. Champions ASEC have added two Nigerians to their roster, Lateef Alamu from Iwuanyanwu Nationale and youth international John Zaki from BCC Lions. They also signed Congolese international Florent Baloki, who played for Sabe de Bouna last year. Africa Sports have re-signed Gabriel Okolosi, whose goals helped them win the African Cup-winners Cup in 1992, and Ibe Johnson from Iwuanyanwu Nationale. They have also bought Burkina Faso internationals Seydou Traore and Hassane Kamagate.



Moving on . . . Congo's Baloki has joined ASEC Abidjan

SENEGAL

ASC NDIAMBOUR and Diaraf Dakar are the leaders of the two First Division pools. Diaraf lead pool A by two points from AS Rail, while Ndiambour have a one-point lead over Port Autonome.

MARK GLEESON

SIERRA LEONE

SWISS-BORN coach Robert Muller has given up his job with the Sierra Leone national team, in disputed circumstances.

The National Sports Council say that Muller had to go because of poor results in the African Nations Cup, because he had not given up his job as coach of Mighty Blackpool, as required by his contract, and because he had failed to honour a friendly with neighbouring Guinea.

Muller was claimed to have resigned because the NSC had "failed to make adequate preparations" – and there also are stories that he left after finding some players smoking marijuana before a match.

His assistant, Abdulai Sesay, has taken over as caretaker while a new coach is being sought.

Sierra Leone lost 4-1 to Ghana, won 3-2 at home to Congo and lost 4-2 in Niger during Muller's Nations Cup campaign.

DUROSIMI THOMAS

Pipe dream

Paul Gardner is not convinced by Major League Soccer's plans to lay a pipeline to the stars

WHEN THE OLD North American Soccer League collapsed in 1984, it marked the end of big-time professional soccer in the United States.

The flow of glamorous superstars from Europe and South America – it included Pele and Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff and Eusebio, George Best and Carlos Alberto – dried up.

Now the MLS – Major League Soccer, the new pro league due to start operations in April 1996 – has a plan to open up the pipeline again. In a modest, orderly way.

The League has come up with a hit list of top world stars that it would like to bring to America. To get on the list, you have to be a creative attacking player. Or you can be colourful – which accounts for the presence of two goalkeepers: Mexico's Jorge Campos, who loves to wear loud shirts (and can also play as a goal-scoring centre forward), and Sweden's Thomas Ravelli, who amused the American fans with his antics during the 1994 World Cup.

Other names on the list include Jurgen Klinsmann of Germany, Colombia's Carlos Valderrama, England's Chris Waddle, and – well, you can always hope – Brazil's Romario.

This sprinkling of stars to kick-start pro soccer in the United States would not all be concentrated in one or two clubs. They would be signed by the League, by the MLS, and distributed one to each club in a scheme designed to avoid the dreaded Cosmos scenario. It is widely held that massive spending on star players by New York Cosmos, the most successful club in the old NASL, helped to bring about that League's demise as other clubs bankrupted themselves trying to keep up.

Of course, the carefully planned return of world stars to American soccer all hinges upon the success of the MLS – a League that, for the moment, exists only on paper.

Nevertheless, even without the MLS, there is professional soccer in the United States, and it is currently displaying all of its traditional weaknesses: a proliferation of leagues, clubs that seem to appear and disappear overnight, lack of suitable stadiums, small crowds and a chronic shortage of money.

Which means that nobody, least of all the players, is getting rich out of soccer. Most of the so-called pro soccer is, in effect, semi-pro, with players being paid only during the playing season.

Despite that, the sport is growing. There are currently four Leagues – two playing indoor soccer – that have a claim to the title of professional. All four of them plan to expand in the near future. And MLS is scheduled to make its debut next year.

Here is *WORLD SOCCER*'s guide to the Leagues that make up the far-from-stable American pro soccer scene:

LA law . . . Johan Cruyff played for Los Angeles Aztecs

A-LEAGUE

(formerly the APSL, American Professional Soccer League)
Commissioner: Richard Groff
Address: 2 Village Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044
Telephone: 215 657-7440
Fax: 215 657-0697
Season: May-September, regular season games plus play-offs
Structure: Lays claim to being the country's top pro league. Seven teams, three of them in Canada. New York Centaurs and Atlanta Ruckus are new teams. Atlanta – without kicking a ball – has already run into trouble and out of money. The club will be financed by the League in 1995.

Atlanta Ruckus
Colorado Foxes
Montreal Impact
New York Centaurs
Seattle Sounders
Toronto Rockets
Vancouver Eighty-Sixers

Current Champions: Montreal Impact

The A team . . . Colorado Foxes of the A-League

CISL

Continental Indoor Soccer League (Indoor soccer)
Commissioner: Ron Weinstein
Address: 16027 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 605, Encino, California 91436
Telephone: 818 906-7627
Fax: 818 906-7693
Season: June-October, 28 regular season games plus play-offs
Structure: Founded in 1993, after the collapse of the Major Indoor Soccer League. Fifteen teams, two of them in Mexico. Seven are owned by clubs from the National Basketball Association (NBA), two by National Hockey League (NHL) teams. Hence the CISL's claim to "the strongest ownership" in American pro soccer.
The link between ice hockey and basketball and indoor soccer is the playing arenas. The NBA and NHL owners were looking for events to stage in their arenas during their close seasons. As basketball and ice hockey are played during the winter, the CISL plays its indoor soccer during the summer.

EASTERN
Dallas Sidekicks
Detroit Neon
Monterrey La Raza
Pittsburgh Stingers
Washington Warthogs

SOUTHERN
Anaheim Splash
Arizona Sandsharks
Houston Hotshots
Mexico City Toros
San Diego Sockers

WESTERN
Las Vegas Dustdevils
Portland Pride
Sacramento Knights
San Jose Grizzlies
Seattle Sea Dogs

Current Champions: Las Vegas Dustdevils

NPSL

National Professional Soccer League (Indoor soccer)
Commissioner: Steve Paxos
Address: 229 Third Street, NW Canton, Ohio 44702
Telephone: 216 455 4625
Fax: 216 455 3885
Season: October to May, regular season games plus play-offs
Structure: 12 teams in two divisions. Dayton Dynamo will move to Cincinnati next season in a bid to attract fans, and a new franchise in Philadelphia is planned for 1996.

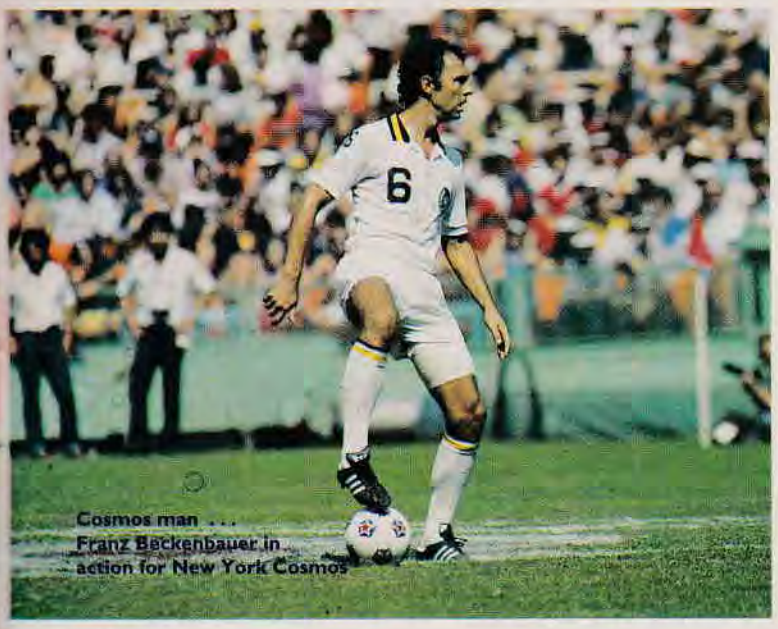
AMERICAN DIVISION
Baltimore Blast
Buffalo Blizzard
Canton Invaders
Cleveland Crunch
Dayton Dynamo
Harrisburg Heat

NATIONAL DIVISION
Chicago Power
Detroit Rockers
Kansas City Attack
Milwaukee Wave
St Louis Ambush
Wichita Wings

Current Champions: Cleveland Crunch

USISL

United Systems of Independent Soccer Leagues
Commissioner: Francisco Marcos
Address: 4322 North Beltline Road, Suite B-205, Irving, Texas 75038
Telephone: 214 570-7575
Fax: 214 257-1493
Season: April-August, regular season games plus play-offs
Structure: Sprawling nationwide league, founded in 1986 with only five teams. Now has pro (57 teams), amateur (28) and womens (22) leagues. The line-up of the pro league is as follows; it includes franchises in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Canada:



Cosmos man . . . Franz Beckenbauer in action for New York Cosmos

NORTHWEST
Everett Bigfoot
Hawaii Tsunami
Oregon Surge
Portland Firebirds
Yakima Reds

ATLANTIC
Charleston Battery
Charlotte Eagles
Greensboro Dynamo
Hampton Roads Mariners
Myrtle Beach Boyz
Raleigh Flyers

SOUTH CENTRAL
Dallas Toros
El Paso Patriots
New Mexico Chiles
New Orleans Gamblers
San Antonio Pumas
Tulsa Roughnecks

SOUTHEAST
Atlanta Magic
Boca Raton Sabres
Chattanooga Express
Florida Stars
Puerto Rico Islanders
Tampa Bay Cyclones

WESTERN (North Conference)
CCV Hydra
Chico Rooks
Monterey Bay Jaguars
Reno Rattlers
San Francisco Bay Diablos

WESTERN (South Conference)
Los Angeles Salsa
San Diego Top Guns
Las Vegas Quicksilvers
San Fernando Valley Golden Eagles

MIDWEST (East Conference)
Chicago Stingers
Cincinnati Cheetahs
Detroit Wheels
Minnesota Thunder
St Louis Knights

MIDWEST (West Conference)
Columbus Xoggz
Lexington Bandits
Rockford Raptors
Louisville Thoroughbreds
Milwaukee Rampage

NORTHEAST (Capital Conference)
Albany Alleycats
Boston Storm
Connecticut Wolves
Pennsylvania Freedom
Montreal Ramblers
North Jersey Imperials
New York Fever

NORTHEAST (Coastal Conference)
Baltimore Bays
Jersey Dragons
Cape Cod Crusaders
Delaware Wizards
Long Island Rough Riders
Rhode Island Stingrays

Current Champions: Greensboro Dynamo

MLS

(Major League Soccer)
Commissioner: Alan Rothenberg
Address: 2029 Century Park East, Suite 400, Los Angeles, California 90067
Telephone: 310 772-2600
Fax: 310 843 4836
Season: April-October, 28 regular season games, plus play-offs.
Structure: League, still very much at a formative stages, was scheduled to begin play in April 1995; this has now been postponed until April 1996. Plans are for 10 teams. Eight team sites have been announced so far:
Boston
Chicago
Columbus
Los Angeles
New Jersey
San Jose
Tampa Bay
Washington DC

MEXICO

NOT SINCE 1979 have we had such a close race for the individual scoring title.

Three players are involved in a very close competition: Omam-Biyik and Zague (both from America) and Carlos Hermosillo (Cruz Azul).

The record in Mexico's First Division is 40 goals, by Argentinian Roberto Aballay (Asturias) in 24 matches (1944-45), and Spaniard Isidro Langara (Espana) the next season.

Omam-Biyik, after scoring 21 goals in the first 18 matches, added only six in the next 10. By scoring four against Monterrey, Hermosillo caught up with him, and Zague is four goals behind.

The second half of the tournament is due to end on May 7, to be followed by a complicated play-off.

America, Necaxa, Cruz Azul, and Pumas UNAM, all from Mexico City, seem sure to enter the play-offs, along with Veracruz, Guadalajara, Tecos UAG and Puebla. Guadalajara's 5-0 win over Veracruz included their 2,500th goal, scored by Ignacio Vasquez.

Necaxa beat Veracruz 2-0 in the Mexican Cup Final, Ricardo Peleaz scoring both goals.

The national team, affected by the economic crisis, have only one friendly match, against the 'new' Chilean team now being trained by Xavier Azkargorta, in Los Angeles. Any future friendlies will take place outside the country.

The team to participate in the Copa America in Uruguay during July will be basically the same as that in the USA World Cup.

GUATEMALA

COMUNICACIONES won the regular championship by a point from defending champions Municipal.

The top six teams - including Suchitepequez, Aurora, Xelaju and Sacachispas - are now playing in a final round with the winner due to face Comunicaciones for the title.

Comunicaciones are two points behind leaders Sacachispas after three games. If they win the final round they will be outright champions.

Uruguayan Jorge Anon (Escuintla) topped the scorers in the regular championship with 16 goals.

CARLOS F. RAMIREZ

COSTA RICA

FIVE clubs – Saprissa, Alajuela, San Carlos, Herediano and Cartagines – have qualified for the second phase of the championship, with Ramonense, Perez Zeledon and Puntarenas virtually assured of the last three places.

Saprissa have played two matches fewer than Alajuela and are in position to capture the first-phase title. In the CONCACAF Champions Cup, Saprissa eliminated Motagua of Honduras 4-0 on aggregate.

HONDURAS

OLIMPIA'S ONCE invincible eight-point lead in Honduras has been slashed to three points as Motagua's rise continues unimpeded.

Not long ago Olimpia were considered a certainty for the title, but a 2-1 loss to youthful Real Maya ended their 18-match unbeaten run. Guillermo Rodriguez and Nelson Rosales scored for the winners.

Motagua, with a match in hand, have taken maximum points over the last four games.

Bottom-placed Deportes Progreseno appear doomed to relegation. They have scored only 11 times in 19 matches.

EL SALVADOR

AFTER 29 matches Luis Angel Firpo and Fas are equal on 44 points, Firpo maintaining a slight goal advantage.

Third-place Aguila halted a three-match losing streak with a 7-1 victory over struggling Cojutepeque. Brazilian Adonis Hilario scored three goals, Alberto Castillo two.

Alianza, still riding the wave of their third-place finish at the CONCACAF club championship, have climbed out of relegation danger. A thrilling 4-2 win over Atletico Marte hinted at better times ahead.

El Salvador has been named host of the 1995 UNCAF Cup, a Central American qualifying competition for the 1996 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

SCOTT GLEBA

CARIBBEAN

A NEW CHAMPIONSHIP in Caribbean football is under way.

Jaques Rugard, president of FA Martinque, and Felix Rodes, chairman of Ligue Guadeloupeene de Football, plan to start the competition in September 1995, in which six top clubs in both countries would take part. The aim is to improve the level of football in the two areas, said Rugard.

GUADELOUPE

REIGNING CHAMPIONS CS Moulien, only fifth in the table this season, and Cygne Noir provided the most exciting match of the round in Guadeloupe.

Moulien, 2-0 down, recovered to win, with substitute Eyobo scoring three times. Red Star continue to lead the table unbeaten, despite an unexpected draw 1-1 with bottom-placed AS Gosier.

MARTINQUE

US ROBERT could manage only a goalless draw at home against Gaulioise, but remain in the driving seat after 12 rounds, with 30 points.

The match of the round took place in Place de Armes, where Aiglon drew 1-1 with second-placed Club Franciscian.

GREGOR ZIEMINSKI

Verdy edge Super Cup showdown

CHAMPIONS Verdy Kawasaki edged out Emperor's Cup winners Bellmare Hiratsuka in a penalty shoot-out after fighting to a 2-2 draw in the Xerox Super Cup, the opener to the new J.League season.

Verdy struggled for most of the match and only rescued the game with two goals in the last eight minutes of ordinary time. Bellmare had substituted centre-forward Koji Noguchi moments before Verdy's first goal, and could find no way to respond.

Verdy's new signing Alcindo Sartori had already shown in pre-season matches that he combines beautifully with Bismarck. He was the J.League's second-top scorer in both the first and second seasons, and must fancy his chances of going one better this year.

But Verdy also had problems with their Japanese stars. Kazuyoshi Miura is still on loan to Genoa and will not be back until June at the earliest. Ruy Ramos was still injured, Tsuyoshi Kitazawa was still struggling with a painful leg and first-choice keeper Shinkichi Kikuchi was badly hurt in a warm-up match.

The burden fell instead on an exciting crop of youngsters, including Japan Olympic team members Takayuki Yamaguchi, Yuji Hironaga and Junji Nishizawa. Yamaguchi, who Verdy sent to play in Brazil last year, is a skilful future playmaker.

The biggest find of all is 21-year-old called Takanordi Nunobe, a quick and very skilful attacking midfielder from a Japanese team in Brazil's Parana State called Hyogo FC. The club was established as a base for young Japanese to study football in Brazil, following in the footsteps of Kazu. But nobody thought it might produce a potential star so quickly.

With Bellmare Hiratsuka missing new midfielder Simao and left-back Hiroaki Kumon through injury, Verdy saw their opportunity and attacked from the outset, only to discover that Bellmare would not crack easily. On the contrary, as Verdy exposed their own defence. Bellmare countered swiftly and created the best scoring chances. With Tetsuya Takada marking Bismarck closely, and Kitazawa in obvious pain, the Verdy midfield lost its rhythm.

Silver dream team . . . Verdy celebrate with the silverware

Bellmare's first goal came at the start of the second half when Almir's free-kick found centre-forward Koji Noguchi unmarked. When Betinho added a second four minutes later, the match seemed all but over. Instead, coach Nelsinho brought on Nunobe for full-back Satoshi Tsunami and, at last, Verdy were able to keep the ball upfield. With eight minutes left Nunobe crashed a long shot through a crowded area to score. Alcindo equalised three minutes later, and it was Verdy who went on to win the shoot-out.

"We needed more creativity and skill in midfield," said Nelsinho after the game. "The introduction of Nunobe enabled us to attack more, and gave us more space. The last 25 minutes were played at our pace."

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

Cerezo in the big time

CEREZO OSAKA lost no time in making their mark on the new J.League season with a 1-0 away win over 1994 first stage champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

That score, thanks to an extra-time goal from Takashi Yamahashi, underlined the steadiness rather than flair that led last year's champions of the Japan Football League (Japan's Second Division) to the Emperor's Cup final in January. Manager Paulo Emilio says that his aim is to finish in the top seven this year, and to win the J.League in 1996.

It wasn't such a happy debut for the League's other new team, Kashiwa Reysol. Their match against Shimizu S Pulse started well enough, with a lovely back-flick by Muller setting up the opening goal in the 26th minute for Satoshi Okura, standing in for the injured Careca. Shimizu midfielder Yasuhiro Yoshida made it two with an own goal five minutes later.

It was Shimizu new boy Carlos Alberto Dias who turned the game around after going on in the 66th minute for centre-forward Akihro Nagashima, he set up the equaliser for Kenta Hasegawa one minute later and scored the decider in extra time.

Goran Vasilijevic had a memorable debut for JEF United Ichihara, scoring the last-minute winner against Jubilo Iwata after Jubilo had pressed for most of the match. Jubilo welcomed back national team striker Masashi Nakayama after an 11-month absence through injury. The Nakayama-Schillaci combination bodes well for this stage.

The most exciting match at the restart was Yokohama Marinos' 4-3 win in Kashima. Argentinian international Ramon Medina Bello scored the late equaliser that turned the game, but Antlers' new signing Jorginho and fellow World Cup star Leonardo were both on sparkling form. Leonardo scored from two dead-ball kicks – a penalty and direct from a corner.

Yokohama Flugels likewise had their three Brazilian signings on show, and they tipped the balance against Urawa Red Diamonds – a long through ball from Cesar Sampaio set up the only goal for Osamu Maeda.

Nagoya Grampus Eight had a nightmare start against Gamba Osaka. The misery started with the 13th-minute sending off of defender Kazuhisa Iijima for a dangerous challenge. Dragan Stojkovic was also sent off in the 89th minute after his second booking.

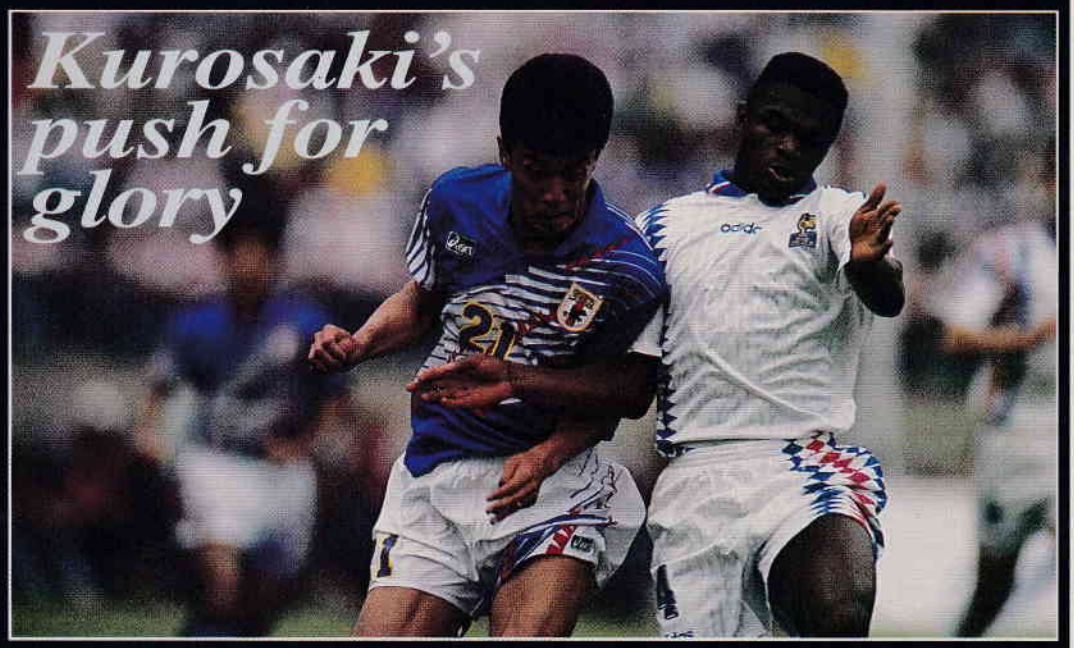
The J.League knows a few things about fixing its fixture lists, but the match designed to kick the season off with a bang was the least interesting of the lot. The day's only evening game promised well after the exciting Super Cup clash one week earlier, but this time Verdy Kawasaki and Bellmare Hiratsuka trundled to a 0-0 draw.

The good news was that both teams had key players back: Ruy Ramos and Nobuhiro Takeda for Verdy, and Akira Narahashi and Yoshihiro Natsuka for Bellmare.

The penalty shoot-out provided the evening's only excitement. Nine players on either side had to take their turns before Verdy finished 7-6 winners. Bellmare, who also lost on penalties to Verdy in the Super Cup, had the consolation of being the first J.League team to win a point for a loss on penalties under the League's new points system.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

Kurosaki's push for glory



HISASHI KUROSAKI has been one of Asia's best centre-forwards for the past five years.

However, Kurosaki *(above left)* had the bad luck to compete against Sanfrecce Hiroshima's Takuya Takagi for his national team place, and with Brazilian Alcindo at his own club, Kashima Antlers.

But 1995 could be his year. Alcindo's move to Verdy allows Kurosaki to team up with Yoshiyuki Hasegawa in the position he likes best, while Jorginho and Leonardo will give him all the support he could ask for. And injury to Takagi, plus the absence of Kazu at Genoa, ensured national team places for both Kurosaki and Hasegawa at the Marlboro Dynasty Cup in February.

Kurosaki rose to the occasion with four fabulous goals that made him top scorer in the tournament and helped Japan to retain the trophy they had won in 1992.

Both 26 year-old Kurosaki and Hasegawa were members of the Honda team that promised so much in the final years of the Japan Soccer League – a team which included Verdy midfielder Tsuyoshi Kitazawa and defender Ko Ishikawa, Cerezo keeper Nobuhiro Takeda, Jubilo defender Toshinobu Katsuya, and Antlers midfielder Yasuto Honda. All left as Honda made it clear that they had no interest in joining the J.League.

Kurosaki looks every inch the traditional centre-forward. He is tall, and packs a powerful header as well as shooting with both feet. But at Zico's Antlers, Kurosaki's steadiness was used to support Alcindo from central midfield. He did the job well, but it was not his best position.

As for the national team, Kurosaki made his debut against Iran in the 1988 Asian Cup. He has been in and out ever since, playing in qualifiers for both the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, but still had only 14 'A' caps by the end of last year.

Now, Kurosaki has the look of a player whose time has arrived. Antlers are serious challengers for the 1995 J.League. Kurosaki, back in the attack, will be looking for a fistful of goals.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

LITTI'S FAREWELL

PIERRE LITTBARSKI bowed out in an invitation match between JEF United Ichihara and J.League new boys Kashiwa Reysol. The match, which a weakened Reysol won 2-1, was followed by a range of presentations, including a special award from the J.League for services to Japanese football. Littbarski's J.League record was 10 goals in 71 League and League Cup games. He now starts a new career as youth coach at JEF.

2002 bid takes off

AFTER nearly six years of effort, it is official. FA of Japan Vice-President Shunichiro Okano has finally delivered Japan's application to host the 2002 World Cup to FIFA.

Mexico's late withdrawal left Japan and close neighbours South Korea to fight it out for Asia's first World Cup.

"It will be the largest and most complex World Cup ever held," said Okano, "but Japan has already been making preparations for several years, and we believe that Japan is qualified to fulfil all of FIFA's requirements."

Both Japan and South Korea must now prepare all documents on the details of the bid for submission by September 30. FIFA then inspects the venues and other planned facilities in May, 1996, before the 21 members of the executive committee make their decision the following month.

Japan launched its bid in November, 1989, as part of a two-pronged strategy to raise the level of Japanese football and interest in the game. The other prong was the J.League, which kicked off in May 1993.

In terms of infrastructure, experience, marketing and enthusiasm, it would be hard to fault the bid. Sony Creative Products, the exclusive merchandiser of J.League products, has already been given the rights for the 1998 World Cup in France.

Japan has hosted the Toyota Cup in 1980 and the Under-17 and Under-20 FIFA World Youth Championships; the Asian Cup; the Asian Games (twice); and the summer and winter Olympic Games.

Japan is bidding with stadia in 15 prefectures: Hokkaido, Aomori, Miyagi, Niigata, Ibaraki, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Aichi, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Hiroshima and Oita.

Two, those in Yokohama (Kanagawa) and Osaka, are already nearing completion and will soon be used by their local J.League teams. Eight will have capacities of 50,000 or over. Yokohama will have the largest, a 70,000-capacity stadium. Four will be renovated; the other stadia are all new.

But Japan also knows that its only rival, South Korea, cannot be taken lightly. South Korea has had a professional league for 14 years. Its national side has been to the World Cup finals several times; and South Korea came from behind to beat the Japanese city of Nagoya in hosting the 1988 Olympic Games.

It could be a close contest. South Korea's bid, like Japan's, has received the strong support of businesspeople and politicians. Chung Mong-joon, the heir to the Hyundai empire, quickly revealed his campaigning strength by beating Japanese rival Tadao Murata to the Asian vice-presidency of FIFA last year.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

Qatar to the rescue

QATAR hosts the World Youth Cup . . . but a World Youth Cup the form of whose very existence must be in question after the fumbling, divisive confusion of the last few months.

Whoever wins, the losers promise to be a string of international authorities. FIFA, for a risky policy over venue assignment; Nigeria for failing to come up with enough political guarantees; the African Confederation for bleating pathetically about losing the event but putting their threatened boycott where their mouth was; and the event itself through the loss of a signficant number of the best young European players.

Trouble began, originally, last autumn when FIFA's executive was warned that it would take "the eighth wonder of the world" for Nigeria to be ready by the scheduled staging date in March.

In fact, the rapid expenditure of around £50million plus enormous political will, achieved the improvements in facilities and infrastructure which FIFA had demanded.

That was followed, however, by FIFA's vacillation: first the Cup was cancelled on health grounds then it was postponed pending a new health safety report . . . then it was cancelled again, this time for fear of a political coup.

Not surprisingly, Nigeria were furious. They even sent a sports commission delegation to Cairo to press the African Confederation into boycotting the tournament. But that mission was scuppered when the commission's sole administrator, Babasola Rhodes, was dismissed by new Sports Minister Jim Nwobodo.

Ultimately FIFA's patience snapped. Nigeria, conveniently, had provided the world governing body with just the excuse they needed to kick them out and bring in the new hosts to make up the numbers.

FIFA's one inspired decision was the choice of the Gulf state of Qatar to take over hosting rights. The Qataris are efficient and enthusiastic event organisers – as they proved most impressively in the autumn of 1993 when they staged the potentially trouble-filled final round of the Asian World Cup qualifiers – featuring the Koreas, Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

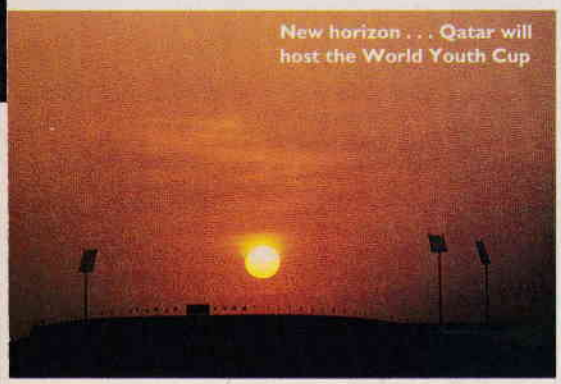
Pushing the event back a month, however, was inevitably going to bring team selection problems. European nations who agreed only with huge reluctance to send something like full-strength teams to Nigeria were always going to use the postponement as an excuse to send only squads of reserves.

Up to 10 'certain' players in each of the squads of Holland, Germany and Spain will be absent. European federations who had already been reluctant to demand players, accepted that they could not force the point at such a crucial time in the domestic season.

In the German case, that means going to the finals without top goalkeeper Uwe Gospodarek, who was needed by Bayern Munich to sit on the subs' bench for their Champions Cup semi-final against Ajax Amsterdam.

In the circumstances, the tournament is wide open. Funnily enough, the weakening of the European challenge means a better chance of the World Youth Cup returning to . . . Africa.

KEIR RADNEDGE



New horizon . . . Qatar will host the World Youth Cup

DYNASTY CUP

Japan back in business

Top scorer . . . Japan's Hisashi Kurosaki (19), in action against Hong Kong

JAPAN restored their battered reputation in Asian football by winning the third AFC Marlboro Dynasty Cup in Hong Kong.

The Asian champions, playing without their Genoa-based striker Kazuyoshi Miura, beat arch-rivals South Korea 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out after a marvellous final had ended 2-2 after extra time.

It was Japan's second success in the four-nation tournament for East Asian nations. The future had looked bright for Japanese football when they won the second Dynasty Cup in Beijing, China, in August 1992, followed by the Asian Cup – the continent's equivalent of the European Championship – in Hiroshima three months later.

But a series of traumatic setbacks – failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup and defeat by South Korea in the 1994 Asian Games quarter-finals in Japan last October – had seriously affected the morale of the squad.

New coach, Shu Kamo, from J.League outfit Yokohama Flugels, took Japan to Saudi Arabia for the Intercontinental Cup in January but watched his team lose 3-0 to Nigeria and 5-1 to Argentina.

So it was a rather nervous Japan who arrived in Hong Kong for the third Dynasty Cup and an opening match in the round-robin series against the hosts, who were replacing the unavailable North Koreans.

Two goals from Hisashi Kurosaki, the 26-year-old Kashima Antlers striker, helped Japan beat Hong Kong 3-0 and a 1-1 draw against Korea and a 2-1 victory over China put them on top of the table and into the final against Korea, who had drawn 0-0 with China in their opening game and beaten Hong Kong 3-2 to clinch runners-up spot.

The final was a cracker. Japan took an early lead through Masahiro Fukuda but Korea equalised before half-time with a thundering 30-yard drive from Lee Ki-hyung.

With only three minutes remaining, Japan thought they had won the trophy when Motohiro Yamaguchi hammered in his side's second goal from the edge of the penalty area, only for the Koreans to produce another sparkling equaliser from Lee

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Fit for a king . . . Hong Kong stadium, home of the Dynasty Cup

who drove in a low shot in the third minute of injury time.

Most of the neutrals in the 25,000-strong crowd cheered for Korea in extra time but neither side could find the sudden-death 'golden goal' to end the contest.

And so to penalties for the third successive Dynasty Cup final . . . and despair for Korea's captain, Choi Yong-su, whose miss proved costly – Japan scored with all five attempts to retain the Dynasty Cup.

Korea were satisfied with their form, too, as Russian coach Anatoli Byshovets had selected his Olympic (under-23) team in the final, resting World Cup sweeper Hong Myung-bo and Korea's Footballer of the Year for 1994, Ko Jeong-woon.

Hong Kong, who were allowed to field three overseas players from their domestic League to strengthen their side, despite the fact professional football had been introduced in the British colony in 1968, finished third by beating 'Big Brother' China 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the third place play-off.

● LEADING scorer at the Dynasty Cup was Hisashi Kurosaki of Japan with four goals.

● THE AFC's technical officer for the tournament, former Hong Kong national coach Kwok Ka-ming, selected the following Dynasty Cup All-Star XI in a 3-5-2 formation: Ou Chuliang (China); Hiroshige Yanagimoto (Japan), Tetsuji Hashiratani (Japan), Masami Ihara (Japan); Ko Jeong-woon (South Korea), Lee Ki-hyung (South Korea), Hajime Moriyasu (Japan), Leslie Santos (Hong Kong), Masakiyo Maezono (Japan), Choi Yong-su (South Korea), Hisashi Kurosaki (Japan).

JEREMY WALKER

CHINESE TAIPEI

TAI POWER lead the Rebar Divison A with 16 points from five wins and a draw in seven outings, one point ahead of Lu Kuang.

JORDAN

AL WAHADAT, the club representing the Palestinian refugees in Jordan, have won the First Division championship for the fourth time.

Al Wahadat collected 36 points from 22 unbeaten games, winning 14 and drawing eight, to finish two points ahead of Al Ramtha, the 1992-93 champions. Al Faysali, the 1993-94 champions and 1994 Jordan FA Cup winners, were third on 33 points.

Al Jil, Al Karmel, Shabab Al Hussein and Al Arabi were relegated and will be replaced in the top flight by Sahab, Al Boqaa, Al Rosayfa and Al Jalil.

Joint leading scorers in the League with 16 goals each were Jeries Tadros of Al Faysali and Al Hussein's Aref Hussein.

Al Faysali, from Amman, won the Jordan Cup for the eighth time, but in very unusual circumstances.

Against Al Ramtha in the final, Al Faysali scored after 20 minutes through striker Sobhi Awad.

In the 25th minute, the referee produced the red card for Al Ramtha's Bilal Al Lahham, a move which prompted his team-mates to leave the field in disgust.

When they refused to resume the game, the Jordanian Football Federation declared Al Faysali 3-0 winners.

KAZAKHSTAN

SERIK S. BERDALIN from Karaganda, the senior coach of Shakhtyor FC, has been appointed national coach by the Kazakhstan FA.

Sergei Gorokhovodatski, from Ust-Kamenocorsk, was appointed coach of the Olympic squad; Talgat Nurmakhanbetov, from Almaty, will run the under-16s and Vladimir Fomichov, from Ekidastuz, will look after the under-19s.

OMAN

LOWLY Al Souweiq produced the shock of the 17th round of league fixtures by inflicting the first defeat of the season on leaders Al Ourouba.

Table-topping Al Ourouba went into the match with 36 points from 16 games, having won 10 and drawn six. But Al Souweiq took all three points with a goal from M. Amer.

Al Ourouba's defeat allowed the chasing pack to make up ground. Second-placed Sur beat Al Hilal 3-1 to move on to 31 points, five behind the leaders; third-placed Al Seib won 2-0 away to Zaffar; fourth-placed Al Nasr beat Oman 2-1 and were joined on 28 points by Al Ahli, 2-1 winners over Khaboura.

● LEADING scorers: 19, Omar Al Alamein (Al Nasr); 12, Jassam Anjay (Al Ourouba); 11, Radwan Ajam (Al Ahli), Salem Jadid (Al Hilal).

● OMAN have appointed Jan Pivarnik as Olympic team trainer. The former Czechoslovakia captain steered Saudi Arabia's Al Qadisiyah to the Asian Cup-winners Cup in 1993-94. The man tipped to succeed Heshmat Mohajerani as Oman's national coach is Dr Jozsef Venglos, currently in charge of the Slovakia national team.

VIETNAM

MORE than 200,000 spectators, the highest attendance figures in Vietnam's footballing history, watched the 15-match series in the first Independence Cup at the Thon Nhat Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City.

Four teams from Vietnam – Vietnam I, Vietnam II, Hanoi Select and Central Area Select – were joined by four from overseas – the Malaysian Olympic team, Chinese Army, Korean Housing Bank and Estonia's national team.

Korean Housing Bank finished top of the table by winning all five of their matches, scoring 11 goals and conceding only one.

Chinese Army were second with four wins and one defeat, followed by Vietnam I and Vietnam II, who were joint third with two wins and two defeats. The Vietnamese were coached by the Brazilian, Tavares.

Vietnam II won the Fair Play award, despite collecting seven yellow cards and one red card.

The organisers were delighted with the attendance figures and the media coverage – *Ho Chi Minh City Television* showed most of the games live – and the Independence Cup will become an annual event.

● Fair play award: Vietnam II.

● Player of the tournament: Kim Kwang-su (Korean Housing Bank).

● Best goalkeeper: Nguyen Van Cuong (Vietnam I).

JEREMY WALKER

BAHRAIN

MUHARRAQ held a two-point lead after 10 games in the Bahrain Mumtaz League, despite having scored only 14 goals. West Riffa were second, two points behind.

AIDAN PAYNE

QATAR

AL RAYYAN looked likely to equal Al Saad's record of seven League titles in Qatar, leading by four points with only six games to go.

Al Ittihad were second and Al Shamal third, a further two points behind. The holders, Al Arabi, were surprisingly seventh out of nine.

SYRIA

THE complicated system of deciding the honours means that Al Ittihad, who finished two points clear, must go into a play-off with the three clubs next in the table.

Each will play the others twice, with points gained being added to those obtained in the 'proper' season. Al Ittihad had 80, Jabala 78, Karama 69 and Hottin 68. Last season's champions, Al Horria, finished ninth.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL SHABAB led the table after nine matches, with 14 points out of 18.

Under Romanian coach Ion Balaci, formerly with Rapid Bucharest, Al Shabab were two points clear of Al Wasl, Al Ain and Al Shaab.

The holders, Sharjah, had been doing badly, taking only seven points out of a possible 18.

MOHAMED CHBARO

HONG KONG

ONE of the most famous clubs in Hong Kong, Happy Valley, exztended their lead at the top of the First Division with a a 2-1 win over Kui Tan.

Valley, who last won the First Division title in 1988-89, have been helped by the signing of seven Russian players. One of them, Victor Derbunov, has already kept six clean sheets in league games.

Senior clubs have voted unanimously to increase the number of overseas players teams are allowed to field from five to seven for the end-of-season FA Cup tournament. Overseas players were banned in 1986 but these restrictions were lifted three seasons later.

TAI WAI CHEUNG

CONFEDERATION

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Football, the Game of the Future.

The oldest and the best

Paul Moon traces the history of North Shore United, New Zealand's earliest and most successful club

NEW ZEALAND'S North Shore United are again able to proclaim themselves the country's top team.

Their success in the 1994 Superclub Championship was not a major surprise – they had gained significant titles in all but one of the previous nine decades.

United are the oldest club in NZ, as well as the most successful. Founded in 1887, they were initially named Devonport by Charles Dacre, who had earlier played a major role in establishing soccer's popularity in England both as a player and administrator.

When Dacre was awarded the Auckland Football Association's first life membership, in 1910, North Shore (their name having been changed from Devonport in 1893) had twice captured the city's premier competition, the Thompson Shield.

Three of Dacre's sons were to play for the club he established, and one, Ces, represented New Zealand at both soccer and cricket.

Ces was a North Shore regular from 1916 to 1927, and experienced four further Auckland title wins and another being shared. This exceptional all-round sportsman then decided to concentrate upon cricket and appeared for Gloucestershire in the English County Championship until 1936.

New Zealand's first nationwide club competition, the Chatham Cup, began in 1923, but its early years brought North Shore little joy.

In 1926 they were beaten 4-2 in the final by the now defunct Sunnyside, and 26 seasons were to pass before their colours were again seen at domestic soccer's showpiece, when a 1-1 draw with Western meant that the Cup was shared for the only time.

Those 26 years were the leanest period endured by the club. Only twice was their name inscribed upon the Thompson Shield during this time and there were difficulties off the field, too. In 1933 financial considerations forced an amalgamation with minor outfit Belmont and the creation of a new entity – North Shore United.

Another local title followed in 1954, but little impact was made in the now all-important Chatham Cup until 1959, when the Ken Armstrong era began.

Armstrong was a midfield player and a key member of Chelsea's 1954-55 Football League Championship team. He won one England cap, in a 7-2 defeat of Scotland, but lost his place through injury.

In 1957 he emigrated to New Zealand and took soccer there by the scruff of the neck. Between 1959 and 1963 he led United to four Thompson Shield successes and four Chatham Cup finals, two of which were won.

In 1964 Armstrong left for crosstown rivals Eastern Suburbs, who overnight became New Zealand's most powerful team while United slipped to the bottom of the Auckland First Division.

Three years later, at the age of 42, he went back to United, who soon returned to the top, putting another Chatham Cup in their trophy cabinet.

Armstrong then hung up his boots, but remained at North Shore as coach. The transition did not bring immediate rewards and New Zealand's oldest club were the most prominent absentees when the long-desired National League began in 1970.

Towards the end of that season, Armstrong moved to Mount Wellington and helped them to two National League titles and Chatham Cup triumph.

Not until 1974, after claiming their 15th Auckland championship, did United gain a place among the elite. Four more seasons were required before their first and, it transpired, only National League championship was secured.

The conquering team had four key players: former Scotland Under-23 goalkeeper Sandy Davie, mercurial striker Duncan Ormond (a nephew of former Scotland manager Willie Ormond), defender Adrian Elrick, and outstanding defender-cum-midfielder Duncan Cole. Elrick and Cole appeared for New Zealand at the 1982 World Cup finals.

Although unable to lift another national trophy before the competition was terminated in 1992, North Shore remained among New Zealand's most respected teams. They were runners-up in 1982 and 1983, and in 1979 and 1986 they won the Chatham Cup.

Unlike several over prominent clubs, notably once-dominant Christchurch United and Mount Wellington, North Shore found little difficulty in adjusting to the different demands of the Superclub Championship, which replaced the League.

They were third in the inaugural season, hit peak form at exactly the right time during the following year's play-offs, and defeated holders Napier City Rovers 3-1 in the final.

The 1994 unit included several notable performers, two of them with experience at English professional clubs before work permit problems forced them to return home. Goalkeeper Jason Batty was an apprentice at Norwich City, and Heremaia Ngata became the first Maori to feature in the Football League while with Hull City, where he was known as Harry.

Fellow internationals Tim Stevens, Neil Harlock and Mark Elrick, Adrian's nephew, were equally influential.

With that championship-winning side virtually intact, few would bet against United registering the second major honour of their second century when the new domestic season is completed in November.

●THE huge disadvantage Asian teams face when meeting 'European' opposition was obvious when New Zealand defeated the touring Singapore representative team 3-0.

The diminutive Singaporeans were overpowered and, all too obviously, overawed by their larger opponents. Two goals within the opening five minutes effectively ended the contest.

Singapore fared better against less opposition during their five-match tour, beating New Zealand Under-17s 4-3, Napier City Rovers 2-1 and Central 3-1, and drawing 2-2 with the domestic champions, North Shore United.

FIJI

BA CELEBRATED their return to the Fijian FA fold by winning the first title at stake in the 1995 domestic season, the Champions v Champions Series. Ba proved their superiority with a 2-1 aggregate win over Inter Districts Champions Labasa. After a 1-1 draw at Labasa, 20-year-old striker Manoa Masi secured victory in the 19th minute of the return game.

POLYNESIA CUP

PREDICTABLY, the first edition of the world's latest international regional championship, the Polynesia Cup, was won by a team representing Tahiti. A young and inexperienced line-up, virtually the Tahiti C selection, struggled to beat Tonga 1-0, and American Samoa 2-1, before overwhelming hosts Western Samoa 7-0.

● WESTERN SAMOA were captained by Lolani Koko, who played for his country in the 1991 rugby union World Cup, competed at the 1982 Commonwealth Games (in the 100 metres) and is in the Samoans' squad for this year's rugby league World Cup!

PAUL MOON

Man of many talents . . . Western Samoa's Lolani Koko

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA surrendered a three-and-a-half year unbeaten record in Sydney when Colombia defeated them 1-0.

The Socceroos badly missed European-based players Robbie Slater and Aurelio Vidmar. They lacked punch up front and squandered five clear chances, including a penalty.

Colombia, too, were under-strength, fielding a completely home-based team and including only three players who travelled to USA '94. Hamilton Ricard scored the winner in the 66th minute.

Three minutes later Alex Tobin, making his debut as Australian captain, placed a spot-kick too close to goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba (a half-time substitute for the controversial Rene Higuita). Three days earlier the teams had drawn 0-0 in Brisbane.

Australia also wasted an uncomfortably high number of openings when Japan played in Sydney during the following week. This time, however, two were put away – by John Markovski and Steve Corica, both in the first half, on either side of a fine opportunist goal from Yoshiyuki Hasegawa.

Australian champions Adelaide City have applied to replace Singapore for the next Malaysian domestic season, while retaining membership of their own National League.

City admit many logistical problems will have to be overcome before they can participate on the lucrative Malaysian scene, not least being the fact the Malaysian and Australian seasons overlap for two months, but they believe these can be overcome.

PAUL MOON

Captain's debut . . . Australia's Alex Tobin

BROOKING talkback

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters . . .

THIS is your chance to join the debates on soccer's big issues. Send your views to Trevor Brooking, the TV analyst and former England and West Ham player, and he will reply to a selection each month.

● Write to Trevor Brooking c/o *WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. The comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessarily reflect *WORLD SOCCER*'s views. He will only answer those letters published.

TV HEAVEN

TREVOR – A 16-team European League, built around midweek television, would surely produce more quality games and genuine family audiences for football. This might inspire incentives in England, with a smaller Premier League, supported on a true pyramid of 18 clubs, and regionalised North and South leagues to cut expenses and produce more derby games. A more controlled format for Europe and English football would go some way towards improving the game and restoring the image abroad.
REG MOORE, Shanklin, I.O.W

I AM still not totally convinced about the merits of a 16-team European League. The European Cup's mini-league has given more revenue to the participating clubs, but, for me, a major plus is that it eventually develops into the knock-out cup drama which captures everyone's imagination. Certain countries would warrant at least two clubs being included, while others could be squeezed out altogether. Your suggestion about regionalised leagues returning to our domestic game is worth considering. Sustaining over 90 clubs is becoming harder than ever, and the viability arguments continue to grow.

BORED IN THE USA

TREVOR – Do the Americans want a soccer league or not? I thought that part of the reason the 1994 World Cup was held in the USA was to create a larger audience and encourage the general public to appreciate the game. Now the launch of this league has been postponed until 1996 – by which time, USA '94 will be a distant memory. Do you think it will ever get off the ground, and if so will it be successful?Alan Rothenberg wants to change just about every rule in the book anyway.
LYNDA BOULTER, Horsford, Norwich

THE selection of USA in 1994 was a deliberate effort by FIFA to establish soccer, which had always floundered against the more popular sports of baseball, basketball and American football. It provided the cream of world talent, and hoped the excitement and drama on show would capture the interest of the powers that be. During the time I was there I did definitely notice the topic of conversation on soccer was growing, as the media coverage expanded the American public's knowledge of what was taking place. The tournament itself was an unqualified success, and there was a good feeling about the future prospects of the National League, which had then been put back to April 1995. The main doubt centred on whether the new league would attract the quality players it required if it was going to be marketable. The additional delay in the launch until 1996 now seems to remove any benefits gained from 1994. Financially, the viability of the league must again be in doubt, although I would be delighted to be proved wrong.

INFERIORITY COMPLEX

TREVOR – Recently a certain TV commentator remarked that the Bundesliga is inferior to the English Premiership. I am outraged by this comment. Attendances in Germany are higher than in England and there is a higher quality of football. European results of this season prove this. Germany have won three World Cups, two European Championships and 13 European Club trophies.
JAMES HOWARD, Obenrsel, Germany

I DON'T think anyone would dispute the high quality of German football during my generation, at both international and club football. Technically I would still put them above the English game, especially when it comes to producing defensive players capable of composed and accurate distribution. I do think the English game is closing the gap though, and the influx of foreign talent over the last year has encouraged a much better passing style among a greater number of clubs. Euro '96 should be another boost to our domestic game, but certainly our six club teams have, in the main, been disappointing in European competition this season.

TURNING JAPANESE?

TREVOR – Juventus are leading the way in Italy this season despite the absence in many games through injury of Roberto Baggio. Do you think the performances of Del Piero, Ravenelli and Vialli may persuade Juventus to release him for a rumoured move to Japan?
ANJALI KHANNA, Guttenberg, New Jersey, USA

WITH his contract up for renewal this summer there are bound to be rumours, but while Japan is a lucrative market for the future I would be disappointed if Baggio chose that route just yet. Juventus's exciting challenge for the Serie A Championship has been achieved despite some lengthy injury absences from their star player. It means the club find themselves in the happy position of knowing he is not quite as indispensable as everyone imagined. I'm sure juventus would be keen to keep him, but his financial demands need to be realistic if the partnership is to be extended.

CANTONA – SAINT OR SINNER?

● A huge postbag followed the Cantona incident, These two letters represent the opposite views.

TREVOR – There is nothing in the world that can explain Cantona's kung-fu kick at a fan. He brought disgrace to his club and to English soccer. Soccer should bring excitement and pleasure to all, not fear and disgrace.
ANWAR TAQI, Washington DC, USA

I CANNOT offer any defence on Cantona's behalf. All the provocation arguments are very emotive, but to react with such frightening aggression was an unacceptable response when you consider the example it set for all those youngsters who saw the incident. He is an exceptionally gifted footballer who can captivate crowds with his deft skills and vision, but his lack of self-control had been evident from previous outbursts, and so a lengthy suspension was inevitable. When he returns to the playing arena he will be subjected to a severe test of whether he can control his volatile temperament, but it would be a huge waste of unique talent if he was lost to the footballing public. Only time will tell!

TREVOR – Surely, something can be done to prevent fans from acting in this manner. Cantona is innocent; a victim of constant harassment by media and fans.
FRAN ULIC, Yonkers, USA

IN NO way can you suggest Cantona is innocent. Whatever verbal abuse he suffered from supporters, no player can ever afford to react in such a manner. The huge financial rewards paid to players are primarily for their ability, but must surely include a code of behaviour and respect for the rules of the game. That includes showing restraint in difficult situations, even though it was rather foolish to send him off at one end and then force him to walk the length of the pitch before reaching the tunnel. Better stewarding is needed, with extra money spent on training and supervision essential.

Diary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

ACTION: In the Champions Cup quarter-finals, Milan are the only winners, defeating Benfica 2-0.
GERMANY: Controversial midfielder Stefan Effenberg agrees a three-year contract to stay with Borussia Monchengladbach after his loan from Fiorentina expires at the season's end. The clubs had already agreed a £3.2million fee . . . Dynamo Dresden replace coach Horst Hrubesch with assistant Ralf Minge, Hrubesch had been in charge for just 100 days.
ITALY: Giacinto Facchetti, shown the red card last Sunday for dissent on his debut as Inter's team manager, is banned from the bench for one game.
SWITZERLAND: Mexico tell FIFA they will not now, after all, be presenting a formal candidature to stage the 2002 World Cup . . . a FIFA spokesman says the sudden death format used to resolve drawn matches in Japan's J.League could be introduced in the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

ACTION: Holders Arsenal appear to be losing their grip on the Cup-winners Cup after they are held 1-1 at home in the quarter-finals by Auxerre . . . in the UEFA Cup, Sampdoria are surprisingly beaten 1-0 at home by FC Porto.
ITALY: Milan and Genoa are each banned from playing two matches in their home stadia as punishment for the events on January 29 which led to the death of Genoa fan, Vincenzo Spagnolo.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA extends the seven-month English ban on Eric Cantona to the rest of the world.
GERMANY: The DFB decides to award a testimonial to former International Guido Buchwald, now in Japan.
NIGERIA: FIFA medical experts begin a tour of Nigeria to investigate the health issues which led to suspension of the World Youth Cup.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

ITALY: Giacinto Facchetti is cleared to take his place on the bench for the game against Juventus after an appeals board reduces a one-game ban to a caution . . . Milan striker Daniele Massaro agrees to join Japan's Shimizu S-Pulse when the Italian League ends on June 4 . . . Genoa and Milan agree to appeal against ground closures.
SPAIN: Barcelona midfielder Josep Guardiola is ruled out for a month after tearing muscles in his left ankle during the Champions Cup quarter-final first leg against Paris Saint Germain.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

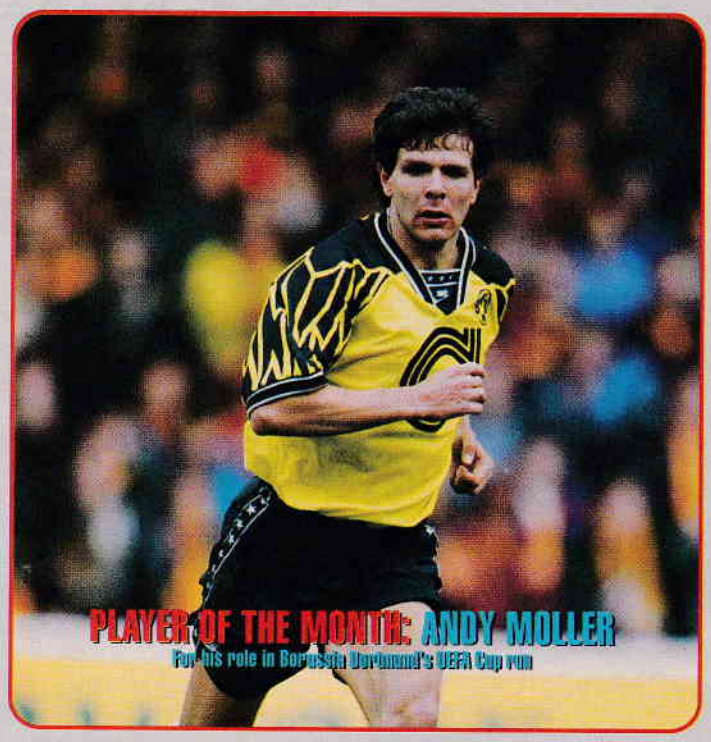
ACTION: Andy Cole hits five goals, a League record for Manchester United, as the English champions thrash Ipswich 9-0 . . . Nantes set a French League record unbeaten run of 28 matches as they beat Nice 2-1 despite having one player sent off and three carried off.
SCOTLAND: The International Football Board, meeting at Turnberry, decide to experiment with time-outs at either the next World Under-17 Cup or the Atlanta Olympic Games. It is also decided to permit three substitutes in competitions, to include a goalkeeper or not as a coach's discretion, and to reword the offside law so as not to penalise a player standing in an offside position but not interfering with play.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

ACTION: More high scoring as Lazio beat Fiorentina 8-2 (with four goals for Casiraghi) and Milan win 5-0 away to Brescia (with four goals for Simone) . . . Real Sociedad's Meho Kodro scores four in Spain against Tenerife . . . Michael Laudrup's solo goal inspires Spanish leaders Real Madrid to a 4-0 win over Gijon.
CZECH REPUBLIC: Goalkeeper Martin Parizekis of Svarc Benesov is attacked and knocked unconscious by fans of visiting opponents Sparta Prague.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

ENGLAND: Crystal Palace striker Chris Armstrong is barred by the FA from playing in the League Cup semi-final return against Liverpool following a random drugs test in January which found traces of cannabis . . . former Liverpool manager Graeme Souness threatens to sue newspapers reporting allegations concerning Liverpool's signing of Danish defender Torben Piechnik.
GERMANY: Dutchman Aad de Mos, sacked earlier this season by PSV Eindhoven, is confirmed as Werder Bremen's new coach for the 1995-96 season.
ITALY: Milan apologise to Paris Saint-German for publicity concerning their interest in PSG forward George Weah.


PLAYER OF THE MONTH: ANDY MOLLER
For his role in Borussia Dortmund's UEFA Cup run

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

ACTION: Nacional of Ecuador beat Palmeiras 1-0 in the South American club cup.
ENGLAND: Manchester United go back top of the League by winning 1-0 away to Wimbledon . . . the FA charge ex-Arsenal manager George Graham with misconduct in relation to the £425,000 he received in connection with the signings of Danish players Pal Lydersen and John Jensen.
GERMANY: The DFB decides to omit Tottenham striker Jurgen Klinsmann from the squad for the end-of-season tournament in Switzerland so he can have a holiday . . . Bayern Munich's injury list grows further after Dieter Hamann is confirmed as having a triple-fractured cheekbone . . . Second Division Wolfsburg end the sensational run of Bayern Munich's amateur team in the German Cup, winning 2-1 away in their quarter-final tie.
POLAND: Olimpia Bolplast Poznan president Boleslaw Krzyzostaniak and international referee Piotr Werner are banned by the PZPN for irregularities in the transfers of three players.
SINGAPORE: Bookmaker Rajendran Kurusamy, having turned state's witness, tells a Singapore court he fixed matches.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

ACTION: International friendly action brings a 3-3 draw between Cyprus and Sweden, a 4-1 win for the Czech Republic against Finland, a 1-1 draw between Greece and Switzerland and a 2-1 win for Slovakia against Russia.
ENGLAND: Liverpool and Bolton qualify for the League Cup Final on April 2.
FRANCE: Champions Paris Saint-Germain reach the quarter-finals of the French Cup by beating Le Havre 4-3 on penalties.
GERMANY: Borussia Monchengladbach (3-2 v Schalke) and Koln (2-1 v Karlsruhe) reach the semi-finals of the German Cup.
HOLLAND: A goal in extra-time brings Feyenoord an upset 2-1 win away to Ajax in the quarter-finals of the Dutch Cup, ending the Amsterdam club's 10-month unbeaten run.
ITALY: Four fans suffer minor injuries in a skirmish before Juventus' 1-0 win away to Lazio in a cup semi-final first leg.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

ENGLAND: Nigeria striker Daniel Amokachi says he is desperate to leave Everton and return to the European mainland.
ITALY: Fans set fire Fiorentina defender Gianluca Luppi's car outside his home in the wake of Sunday's 8-2 defeat by Lazio.
PORTUGAL: Benfica goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme announces his retirement from the Belgian national team.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

ACTION: In the South American club cup, Emelec of Ecuador lose 3-1 at home to Palmeiras but the Brazilians hit trouble off the field when a court bars star forward Edmundo from flying home because of an incident with a TV crew earlier in the week.
BELGIUM: Brugge beat leaders and champions Anderlecht 1-0.
BENIN: Dragons de l'Oueme of Benin are ruled to have forfeited their African Champions Cup quarter-final away leg against US Chaoula of Algeria after pulling out of the match for fear of Muslim fundamentalist political violence.
ENGLAND: Tottenham sign a £4million shirt-sponsorship deal with computer company Hewlett-Packard, believed to be one of the most lucrative in British soccer.
FRANCE: Nantes stretch their unbeaten run to 29 matches after a 1-1 draw in Bordeaux with Patrick Ouedec's 17th goal of the season.
GERMANY: Werder Bremen maintain their pursuit of leaders Dortmund by handing Freiburg their worst Bundesliga defeat by 5-1 . . . Bochum forward Roland Wohlfarth's appeal against a six-week suspension for taking a banned substance is rejected.
ITALY: A spokesman for relatives of Heysel stadium victims confirms the planning of a series of events to mark the 10th anniversary of the tragedy – and criticises Juventus for a lack of interest . . . Roberto Baggio is confirmed for his Juventus comeback, after four months out, against Foggia.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA all but rejects suggestions for a European super-league.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

ACTION: A Wembley crowd of 32,514 see England beat Brazil 1-0 in a schools international . . . goals from Sheringham and Klinsmann bring Tottenham a 2-1 victory away to Liverpool in the FA Cup quarter-finals . . . Borussia Dortmund are held 1-1 by Eintracht Frankfurt and now lead Bremen by only one point . . . Barcelona's dreams of a fifth successive Spanish League title fade further as they lose 2-0 away to Atletico Madrid.
ZAIRE: National coach Santos Muntubila Ndiela is suspended for six months in the wake of a 4-2 defeat in a youth international in Congo, which was followed by claims that several of the Zaire players were over-age.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

ACTION: Argentina, with virtually their new full-strength first team, beat the United States 3-0 in the Panamerican Games first round match in Mar del Plata with two goals from Marcelo Gallardo and one from Arnaldo Ortega . . . in the African Champions Cup, Swaziland's Eleven Men in Flight lose 3-0 at home to South Africa's Orlando Pirates . . . Greek leaders Panathinaikos struggle to a 3-1 win over relegation-threatened Kavala. . . Ajax Amsterdam retain the Dutch leadership but only thanks to an injury-time winner from substitute Nwankwo Kanu against Go-Ahead Eagles . . . Roberto Baggio makes a goal-scoring comeback in Juventus's 2-0 win over Foggia . . . Real Madrid fail to take advantage of Barcelona's Saturday slip in Spain, crashing 3-1 away to Santander.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona, now coach of Racing, is sent off for throwing water at a linesman – trying to attract his attention because a previously injured Racing player was waiting to go back into the game.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

ENGLAND: Chelsea and England midfielder Dennis Wise is freed on bail by a London court pending appeal, after being given a three-month prison sentence for assaulting a taxi driver and criminal damage.
ITALY: Roberto Baggio rules himself out of Italy's next two matches on fitness grounds.
NORTHERN IRELAND: Swindon's Kevin Horlock is called up for Northern Ireland in the European qualifier against Republic of Ireland at Lansdowne Road. Squad: Wright, Fettis, Fleming, Taggart, McDonald, Worthington, Patterson, Magilton, Hughes, Gillespie, Dowie, Gray, Morrow, Michael O'Neill, Horlock, McMahon, Hill, Quinn.
WALES: Brian Law, 25-year-old Wolves central defender who was once forced to quit the game through injury, is called into the Wales squad for the European qualifier in Bulgaria on March 29. Wales boss Mike Smith springs more surprises by calling up Southampton midfielder David Hughes but dropping Arsenal striker John Hartson. Squad: Southall, Roberts, Freestone, Melville, Symons, Law, Coleman, Bowen, Phillips, Horne, Jones, Speed, Hughes, Cornforth, Giggs, Rush, Roberts, Saunders.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

ACTION: Chelsea reach the semi-finals of the Cup-winners Cup by defeating Brugge 2-0 (2-1 on agg) . . . Juventus and Parma carry on for Italy in the UEFA Cup but Lazio fall to Borussia Dortmund.
ALGERIA: Suspected Islamic militants shoot and wound the new FA president, Larbi Brik. His predecessor, Rachid Haraigue, was murdered on January 21 by opponents of the military-backed government.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona quits as coach of Racing Club, two days after a referee sent him from the trainer's bench for soaking a linesman with water. Maradona says he is resigning to protect Racing, adding: "I'm not going to make an excuse to the AFA and if they want to fine me, I won't pay up." Maradona has also accused Sunday's referee, Juan Bava, of being biased in opposing team Independiente's favour.
ENGLAND: Goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar of Southampton and Hans Segers of Wimbledon and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu are arrested in connection with match-fixing allegations. Also arrested are Malaysian businessman and Fashanu's girlfriend.
FRANCE: Bernard Tapie, former owner of Marseille, denies accusations by one-time aide Jean-Pierre Bernes that he ordered the match-fixing scheme which cost the club the 1993 French League title and their place in the top division.
ITALY: Lecce striker Ennio Bonaldi is attacked by seven youths during training at the team's ground. Bonaldi had missed a penalty in Sunday's 2-1 defeat away to rivals Cosenza.
SCOTLAND: Serb manager Ivan Golac, who led Dundee United to their first Scottish Cup victory last season, is dismissed as manager.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA's Gerd Aigner says that, in the Champions League next season, three points will be awarded for a win with bonus money on offer for goals scored.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

ACTION: Ajax, Bayern, Milan and Paris Saint-Germain reach the Champions Cup semi-finals . . . Poland beat Lithuania in a friendly.
ECUADOR: Palmeiras star Edmundo walks free from a local hotel in which he had been confined for nearly four days after smashing a TV camera following a Libertadores Cup tie.
ENGLAND: Bruce Grobbelaar, Hans Segers and John Fashanu, the three players arrested by police inquiring into match-fixing allegations, are released from custody on bail.
FRANCE: Former Valenciennes president Michel Coencas tells the Marseille match-fixing trial that he believes Bernard Tapie was essentially unaware of the scandal. Tapie is one of six accused who face jail terms of up to three years if convicted.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich confirm that they want to sign Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov, who is unhappy at Barcelona. President Franz Beckenbauer says: "We have a basic interest in signing Stoichkov. We are trying to get him. Whether we'll succeed is another question."
NORTH VIETNAM: Veteran German coach Karl-Heinz Weigang is appointed new Vietnam national coach.
PORTUGAL: Youth fan clubs of Benfica, Porto, Sporting and Belenenses sign a peace pact with police in a bid to end increasing violence.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

ACTION: Holders Arsenal, Zaragoza and Sampdoria – after a shoot-out victory away to FC Porto – join Chelsea in the semi-finals of the Cup-winners Cup.
ENGLAND: Blackburn sign Ireland B right-back Jeff Kenna from Southampton for £1million . . . Chelsea's acting captain Gavin Peacock is cleared by UEFA after being erroneously cautioned instead of John Spencer in the first leg of the Cup-winners quarter-final.
FRANCE: Ex-Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie, currently standing trial in Valenciennes in the Marseille match-rigging scandal, says he has signed a contract to resume playing with Portuguese champions Benfica. Eydelie had been banned from playing by the French federation until last January.
GERMANY: Borussia Dortmund's Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat tears right-knee ligaments in training and is ruled out for the rest of the season.
TURKEY: Galatasaray dismiss German coach Reinhard Saftig after only six months following fan unrest after the 3-0 defeat by Antalyaspor.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA, at the second attempt, finally cancel the Nigerian staging of the World Youth Cup. The decision is taken, however, not on medical but on security grounds.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

ENGLAND: Eric Cantona must answer further charges when he appears in court to answer an assault accusation arising from the Selhurst Park incident. He will face a private prosecution for affray and threatening behaviour with intent, brought by Roy Edey, a retired solicitor's clerk with a reputation for instigating controversial cases in the public interest.
SPAIN: Barcelona suspend Hristo Stoichkov for a fortnight for criticising his team-mates and coach Johan Cruyff in public.
SWITZERLAND: Roy Hodgson turns to Dario Zuffi to fill the attacking gap left by injury to Stephane Chapuisat in the Swiss squad of 21 for the European Championship qualifier in Hungary on March 29. Zuffi last played for his country in 1989. Squad: Pascolo, Zuberbuehler; Fernandez, Gaemperle, Geiger, Henchoz, Herr, Hottiger, Thueler, Vega, Wicky; Bickel, Bonvin, Koller, Ohrel, Sforza, A Sutter, Yakin; Grassi, Subiat, Zuffi.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

ACTION: Brazil are beaten on penalties by Honduras in the quarter-finals of the Pan-American Games . . . Brazilian Ricardo celebrates his return after a lengthy injury spell by scoring both PSG's goals in a 2-0 win over second division Nancy in the French Cup quarter-finals . . . German leaders Borussia Dortmund crash 3-0 at home to Bayer Leverkusen . . . Deportivo Coruna slip up for the second week running in Spain, losing 1-0 at home to Atletico Madrid . . . Ilie Dumitrescu scores in Sevilla's 2-0 win away to Bilbao.
FRANCE: Police arrest Jacques Mellick after evidence in the Marseille bribery trial the previous day casts doubt on the MP's alibi favouring Bernard Tapie.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

ACTION: Notts County beat Ascoli 2-1 in the Anglo-Italian Cup Final . . . Manchester United lose 2-0 away to Liverpool, leaving Blackburn six points clear . . . in Greece, leaders Panathinaikos suffer their first defeat of the season, 2-0 away to PAOK . . . a hat-trick by Jari Litmanen lifts Ajax to a 5-1 victory over NEC Nijmegen on Sunday . . . Juventus beat Cremonese 1-0 while Parma are held 2-2 by Reggiana . . . Barcelona are held 0-0 at home by Valencia, thus falling five points behind leaders Real Madrid, who beat Espanyol 1-0.
FRANCE: Bernard Tapie says, in a TV interview, that there is still no proof he tried to buy off the then Valenciennes coach, Boro Primorac.
ITALY: Juventus extend coach Marcello Lippi's contract for two further years.
SWITZERLAND: Qatar emerges as likely substitute venue for the World Youth Cup.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

BELGIUM: Uncapped Gunther Schepens of Standard Liege is in the 18-man squad for the Euro qualifier in Spain. Michel Preud'homme and Franky Van der Elst have retired from the national team while defender Philippe Albert and midfielder Enzo Scifo are injured. Squad: Bodart, De Wilde; Crasson, Genaux, Grun, Leonard, Renier, Smidts; Degryse, Emmers, Karagiannis, Schepens, Staelens, Walem; De Bilde, Nilis, Verheyen, Weber.
DENMARK: Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel is recalled by Denmark for the European qualifier away to Cyprus on March 29. Squad: Schmeichel, L Hogh; Friis-Hansen, Helveg, Rieper, Risager, Laursen; J Jensen, Steen Nielsen, P Nielsen, M Laudrup, Schjoenberg, J Hoegh; B Laudrup, Rasmussen, Bo Hansen.
ENGLAND: Leeds' South African international Lucas Radebe will miss the rest of the English season after tearing a cruciate knee ligament in the 3-0 victory over Coventry . . . Paul Ince, Matt Le Tissier, Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand are dropped from England's squad for the friendly against Uruguay. Squad: Flowers, Walker; Jones, Barton, Adams, Howey, Pallister, Ruddock, Le Saux, Pearce; Anderton, Lee, Venison, Platt, Sherwood, Redknapp, Barnes, McManaman; Barmby, Beardsley, Shearer, Sheringham.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich agree the end-of-season signing of Kaiserslautern's Swiss midfielder Ciri Sforza for £3million . . . Berti Vogts names only three strikers in his squad for the European qualifier in Georgia. Squad: Kopke, Reck, Babbel, Helmer, Kohler, Reuter, Sammer, Weber, Ziege; Basler, Freund, Hassler, Moller, Todt; Herrlich, Kirsten, Klinsmann.
ITALY: Struggling Genoa sack coach Pippo Marchioro after Sunday's 4-0 defeat by Lazio. Marchioro had been sacked by Reggiana last October then joined Genoa the following month after the dismissal of Franco Scoglio . . . national coach Arrigo Sacchi ignores appeals to recall Gianluca Vialli for Italy's European qualifiers against Estonia and Ukraine. Squad: Pagliuca, Peruzzi; Negro, Benarrivo, Apolloni, Minotti, Maldini, Carboni; Lombardo, Eranio, Albertini, Di Matteo, Crippa, Berti, D Baggio; Zola, Del Piero, Casiraghi, Ravanelli.
MALAYSIA: Local police say they have no conclusive evidence that Malaysian syndicates had tried to fix matches in England or at the 1994 World Cup finals.
SCOTLAND: Tottenham defender Colin Calderwood gets a surprise first call-up for the European qualifying tie against Russia. Squad: Boyd, Calderwood, Collins, Ferguson, Hendry, Jackson, Leighton, Levein, McAllister, McCall, McGinlay, McKimmie, McLaren, McStay, Martin, Walker, Woods, Wright.
SWITZERLAND: Qatar will stage the World Youth Cup from April 13 to 28 . . . FIFA also notifies the Irish Republic, and by implication England, that caps should not be awarded for the abandoned international in Dublin.
TURKEY: Four student supporters of Galatasaray are arrested on murder charges following the beating to death of a 17-year-old Fenerbahce fan after Fenerbahce's 3-0 defeat of their Istanbul rivals on Sunday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

BRAZIL: Romario is reported to have suffered only severe bruising not a fracture to his left arm after colliding with Uruguayan goalkeeper Leo of Bangu . . . police say results of a blood test undertaken by referee Oscar Roberto de Godoi to disprove claims he was drunk during a crucial derby match in Sao Paulo will not be available for at least 30 days.
BULGARIA: National coach Dimitar Penev names his squad for the European qualifier against Wales in Sofia. Squad: Mikhailov, Popov; Kremenliev, Ivanov, Tsvetanov, Hubchev, Kiryakov; Yankov, Balakov, Lechkov, Borimirov, Yordanov; Kostadinov, Stoichkov, Penev, Sirakov, Mihtarski.
ENGLAND: Liverpool sign Millwall's Ireland under-21 winger Mark Kennedy for £2million.
FRANCE: Prosecutor Eric de Montgolfier urges a court in Valenciennes to sentence Bernard Tapie to 18 months, six in prison and 12 suspended, for allegedly bribing players of Valenciennes . . . ex-World Cup star Jean Tigana says he will quit as manager of Lyon at the season's end . . . national manager Aime Jacquet relies heavily on League leaders Nantes for the European qualifier against Israel in Tel Aviv. Squad: Barthez, Lama; Angloma, Blanc, Di Meco, Karembeu, Roche, Desailly, Djorkaeff, Ferri, Le Guen, Martins; Dugarry, Ginola, Loko, Ouedec, Pedros.
ITALY: Gianluca Pagliuca (shoulder) and Massimo Crippa (knee) pull out of the squad against Estonia and Ukraine through injuries.
SPAIN: Squad for the Eurpean tie against Belgium named: Zubizarreta, Canizares; Ferrer, Nadal, Fernandez, Sergi, Voro, Belsue; Donato, Guerrero, Goikoetxea, Hierro, Luis Enrique; Salinas, Cuellar, Higuera, Pizzi, Amavisca . . . Bilbao draw 0-0 at home against La Coruna in a cup quarter-final second leg but lose the tie 3-0 on aggregate.
SWITZERLAND: FC Zurich, fighting to avoid relegation, dismiss coach Bob Houghton . . . Stephane Chapuisat is voted Swiss Footballer of the Year.

Diary

[illegible]Y, MARCH 22

[illegible]: Colombia's Arley Betancourt is [illegible]ted by police in Mar del Plata after [illegible]unching referee Ronal Gutierrez Castro of Costa Rica in the 2-1 defeat by Mexico in their Pan-American Games semi-final.

ARGENTINA: A court official in Mercedes says Diego Maradona will seek the suspension of charges stemming from a 1994 incident in which he fired an air gun at reporters.

BRAZIL: Romario is omitted from Brazil's squad for the friendly against Honduras.

FRANCE: Nantes recover from two down for a 3-2 home win over Le Havre and remain unbeaten for the 30th consecutive league game. Brazil's Sonny Anderson scores four times in Monaco's 6-3 victory over Bordeaux. Champions Paris S-G lose 1-0 to Lyon.

ENGLAND: Gordon Strachan quits Leeds to join Coventry as manager-elect under Ron Atkinson.

GREECE: Panathinaikos (5-0 and 6-0 overall winners over Kavala) and AEK (1-0 and 2-0 overall winners over Edesaikos) qualify for the Greek Cup Final on April 19.

HOLLAND: In the League, Ajax thrash Sparta 8-0 while Feyenoord and Volendam reach the Cup Final.

JAPAN: Argentinian David Bisconti scores twice as Yokohama Marinos thrash champions Verdy Kawasaki 6-2 in the J.League.

ITALY: Juventus gain permission to play the first leg of their UEFA Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund at Milan's Stadio Meazza.

RUSSIA: The federation signs a £6million three-year sponsorship deal with the Danish chewing-gum manufacturer Stimorol.

SWITZERLAND: Servette coach Ilija Petkovic quits.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

ACTION: Italy beat Estonia 7-0 in the European under-21s.

ENGLAND: Manchester United's Eric Cantona is sentenced to two weeks in prison for assaulting a fan at Crystal Palace. He is released on bail pending appeal. The assault case against team-mate Paul Ince, who pleads not guilty, is adjourned until May . . . Norway's Jan Aage Fjortoft tops the deadline day transfers as he moves from Swindon to promotion-chasing Middlesbrough . . . Blackburn sign Dutch international Richard Witschge on loan from Bordeaux.

FRANCE: A Valenciennes court sets May 15 as judgment day in the match-fixing trial of Bernard Tapie and five others.

GERMANY: Stuttgart agree to sign Bulgarian Krasimir Balakov from Sporting Lisbon for £2million at the season's end.

ITALY: Lazio president Dino Zoff denies reports that Croat striker Alen Boksic is to be sold to Barcelona . . . Arrigo Sacchi names newcomers Angelo Peruzzi, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Alessandro Del Piero for Saturday's Euro qualifying match against Estonia.

ROMANIA: Squad for Romania's European qualifier against Poland: Stelea, Prunea; Petrescu, Prodan, Mihali, Belodedici, Selymess; Munteanu, Popescu, Timofte, Hagi, Dumitrescu, Lupescu, Lupu, Galca, Stinga; Raducioiu, Lacatus, Vladoiu.

RUSSIA: Coach Oleg Romantsev includes five strikers and only five defenders in his 20-man squad to face Scotland. Squad: Ovchinnikov, Kharin, Cherchesov; Khlestov, Nikiforov, Onopko, Kulkov, Kovtun; Piatnitski, Tetradze, Kanchelskis, Karpin, Shalimov, Tsimbalar, Mostovoi; Radchenko, Kiriakov, Radimov, Beschastnikh, Pisarev.

SCOTLAND: Former Rangers and Scotland winger Davie Cooper dies from a brain haemorrhage at 39.

SPAIN: John Toshack will take over Deportivo La Coruna next season, it is announced.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA agrees to recommend the award of the 2000 finals to the joint hosting of Belgium and Holland.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

ACTION: Hosts Argentina beat Mexico to win the soccer title at the Panamerican Games.

FRANCE: Captain William Prunier is suspended for six matches in the latest disciplinary sanction against Bordeaux. Prunier was one of three Bordeaux players sent off in a French Cup quarter-final against Strasbourg.

HOLLAND: Seven of the eight Ajax national team rebels are recalled for the Euro qualifier against Malta. Squad: De Goey, Van der Sar; Blind, F de Boer, Valckx, Bosz; Seedorf, Numan, Van der Luer, Winter, Jonk; R de Boer, Overmars, Van Vossen, Bergkamp, Roy.

SPAIN: Ronald Koeman confirms that he will quit Barcelona at the season's end. He intends returning home to Holland to either his former club PSV Eindhoven or his original club, Groningen, where his brother Erwin plays and his father is the general manager.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA ban Jean-Michel Ferri of Nantes for eight European cup matches for extremely brutal play and team-mate Reymnasld Pedros for three matches after their expulsions in a UEFA Cup-tie against Bayern Leverkusen, whose Christian Worns receives a two-game ban. Other bans include a two-match suspension on Sampdoria's David Platt, sent off against Porto.

YUGOSLAVIA: Yugoslavia, weakened by the absence of eight internationals because of club commitments, secure a late-notice friendly against Uruguay on March 31. It will be Yugoslavia's first international match at home since May 16, 1991. Squad: Pandurovic (Partizan), Milojevic (Red Star); Mirkovic (Partizan), Saula (Vojvodina), Stefanovic (Red Star), Saveljic (Partizan), Djorovic (Red Star); Nadj (Partizan), Petkovic (Red Star), Govedarica (Vojvodina), Perovic (Red Star), Curcic (Partizan); Kovacevic (Red Star), Milosevic (Partizan), Pantelic (Vojvodina).

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

ACTION: In European Championship group four, leaders Croatia beat Ukraine 4-0 and Italy defeat Estonia 4-1 . . . Croatia beat Ukraine 1-0 in a European under-21 tie . . . two late goals save Uruguay and earn a 2-2 draw against the United States in Dallas in a match abandoned after 84 minutes because of heavy storms.

ENGLAND: The FA says it will allow England to play abroad only when the team are accompanied by British police.

SOUTH AFRICA: Issa Hayatou, CAF president, completes a week-long inspection tour of the venues for next January's African Nations Cup finals. He says: "The facilities are all in place and the stadiums are superb. It is as good as France has planned for the 1998 World Cup."

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

ACTION: Ajax stretch their unbeaten Dutch League run this season to 26 matches with a 1-0 victory over Twente Enschede. A goal by Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu maintains Ajax's four-point lead over Roda, 2-1 winners at Feyenoord . . . in Portugal, Benfica lose at home again, this time by 3-1 to Guimaraes, their sixth defeat of the season.

ENGLAND: Manchester United agree to open talks with Internazionale concerning a possible £5million sale of Eric Cantona. But Paul Ince is not for sale.

FRANCE: Paul Le Guen of Paris Saint-Germain is nominated to take over from banned Eric Cantona as France's captain for the European qualifier against Israel in Tel Aviv.

GREECE: Protesting farmers block all roads out of Larissa and prevent the local club reaching the town airport to fly to fulfil their top division fixture away to OFI Crete.

MONDAY, MARCH 27

ACTION: England beat the Irish Republic 2-0 in Dublin in the European Under-21s.

CZECH REP: Second-placed Sparta sack German coach Jurgen Sundermann.

ENGLAND: Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson insists that Russia winger Andrei Kanchelskis will honour his contract despite speculation over a move to Rangers, and says the club want to conclude negiotiations on a new contract with Eric Cantona.

FRANCE: Bordeaux sack Portuguese trainer Toni and appoint former player Eric Guerit as caretaker to the season's end.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich are revealed to have approached Jurgen Klinsmann, Ulf Kirsten and Davor Suker for next season.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

ACTION: Poland win surprisingly 2-1 away to Romania in the European under-21s. Scotland snatch an upset victory by 2-1 in Russia.

ENGLAND: Manchester United announce a record half-year profit of £11.2million.

FRANCE: Former Bordeaux president Claude Bez is sentenced to a year's imprisonment, after his conviction for overcharging local authorities to build a club training centre.

ITALY: Lazio's medical team say that Paul Gascoigne will be back in action again in two weeks' time after a year out with a broken leg.

ROMANIA: Rapid Bucharest sack trainer Viorel Hizo after defeats by Arad and Constanta.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

ACTION: A surprise Euro qualifier win for Turkey (2-1 v Sweden) and surprise draws obtained by Cyprus (1-1 home v Denmark) and badly-weakened Belgium (1-1 in Spain) . . . in friendlies Brazil field a weakened team and are held 1-1 at home by Honduras. England draw 0-0 with Uruguay, and Xavier Azkargorta wins his first game as manager of Chile by 2-1 away to Mexico in Los Angeles.

COLOMBIA: Goalkeeper Miguel Calero scores with a brilliant individual effort, a solo dribble upfield out of his own half, for the winning goal which keeps Deportivo Cali top of the championship with a 2-1 win over Pereira.

GAMBIA: National coach Alajie Sillah resigns after squabbling with the team management.

ITALY: Inter say they are ready to step up their bid for Eric Cantona.

NIGERIA: Officials say they may press for a full African boycott of the forthcoming World Youth Cup in Qatar, as a protest against the withdrawal of host rights to Nigeria.

REP IRELAND: Jack Charlton calls for last month's abandoned match against England in Dublin to be rearranged.

SPAIN: Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza says a plan to form a European Club Champions Association will be dropped unless UEFA approves.

ZIMBABWE: Champions Dynamos say they may refuse to play an African Champions Cup tie against US Chaouia of Algeria because of the uncertain security situation in Algeria.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona, who mysteriously disappeared from public sight on Sunday, is found at a Buenos Aires hotel in apparent hiding with friends.

DENMARK: Viborg deny reports of a £160,000 shortfall in the sale to Dundee United of goalkeeper Henrik Jorgensen last season.

GERMANY: Former Germany striker Rudi Völler sues Marseille for £700,000 he claims he is owed under an arrangement through which the club had originally contracted to pay his tax.

JORDAN: Jordan's top team, Al-Whidat, made up mainly of Palestinians, start their first visit to the West Bank in 30 years.

NIGERIA: New Sports Minister Jim Nwobodo disowns an official delegation in Cairo trying to get Africa to boycott the World Youth Cup.

PORTUGAL: Another transfer blow falls on Sporting as key defender Emilio Peixe agrees to join Spanish club Sevilla in the summer.

SPAIN: Security forces in Zaragoza decide to set an exclusion zone around the city to keep out any Chelsea fans without tickets for the Cup-winners Cup semi-final.

UNITED STATES: Dallas millionaire Lamar Hunt holds fire on a decision over whether to buy a Major League Soccer team for Columbus, Ohio.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

ACTION: Yugoslavia beat Uruguay 1-0 in Belgrade.

EGYPT: The CAF condemns FIFA's decision to move the World Cup from Nigeria but decides against a boycott of the event in its new venue in Qatar.

ENGLAND: A judge at Croydon Crown Court, in south London, quashes the two-week jail term imposed on Eric Cantona and substitutes a 120-hour community service order – coaching kids in soccer skills.

FRANCE: National coach Aime Jacquet comes under heavy media fire after the publication of photographs following the disappointing European qualifying drew in Israel showing him slapping hands in delight with his assistants . . . a Marseille court says it will rule next Thursday on whether the local former European champions should go into receivership with debts estimated at £30million . . . Paris Saint-Germain warm up for their Champions Cup semi-final opener against Milan with a 2-1 league victory over Cannes at the Parc des Princes.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord's Sweden striker Henryk Larsson is ruled out for six weeks after an injury sustained during Sweden's 2-1 midweek defeat in Turkey.

ITALY: Lazio say that though Paul Gascoigne could play again next week, he will not be hurried back into action.

RUSSIA: UEFA's executive, meeting in Moscow, announces that the European Super Cup will become a single match at a neutral venue from next season. Also it further endorses the Holland-Belgium joint bid for the 2000 European Championship. The official award will be made in Vienna on May 23.

SWITZERLAND: Austria Salzburg coach Otto Baric has a year-long touchline ban from European club competition reduced to one match by a UEFA appeals committee. Baric was banned for "undisciplined conduct" during a Champions League tie against Milan on December 7.

OBITUARIES

DAVIE COOPER . . . the former Rangers and Scotland winger has died aged 39 from a brain haemorhage. *Appreciation, page 37.*

HENRI GUERIN . . . former France national manager, has died aged 73. Guerin, who played for Stade Francais and Rennes in the 1930s,m was manager of France at the 1966 World Cup finals and later a member of FIFA's technical commission.

WERNER LIEBRICH . . . centre-back of the West German team who shocked the game by defeating Hungary 3-2 in the 1954 World Cup Final, has died aged 68. Liebrich played more than 1,000 League and cup games for his only club, Kaiserslautern, with whom he was German champion in 1951 and 1953. Liebrich played 16 times for West Germany.

JURGEN SHUTZ . . . one of the first West German exports to Italy in the 1960s, has died aged 55. Schutz was top striker with Borussia Dortmund in the early 1960s, forming a highly dangerous partnership with Timo Konietzka immediately before the inception of the Bundesliga. He played five years in Italy with Roma, Messina, Torino, Roma again and Brescia but had little luck with injuries which also meant he played only six times for West Germany.

JACK MOWAT . . . the Scottish referee, has died. He was in charge of the 1960 European Champions Cup Final, when Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3 in Glasgow.

ON THE MOVE

(Loan moves in italics)

Brett **ANGELL**	F	Everton	Sunderland
Krasimir **BALAKOV**	M	Sporting Lisbon	VfB Stuttgart
Andrew **BROWNRIGG**	D	Hereford Utd	Norwich City
Matt **DICKINS**	G	Blackburn	Stockport Co
Jason **DRYSDALE**	D	Newcastle	Swindon Town
*Rui **ESTEVEZ****	*M*	*Benfica*	*Birmingham*
Billy **FINDLAY**	M	Hibernian	Kilmarnock
Jan **FJORTOFT**	F	Swindon Town	Middlesbrough
*Thomas **GILL***	*G*	*Aab Aalborg*	*Norwich City*
Ray **HOUGHTON**	M	Aston Villa	Crystal Palace
Jeff **KENNA**	D	Southampton	Blackburn
Mark **KENNEDY**	M	Millwall	Liverpool
Martin **KUHL**	D	Derby Co	Bristol City
Andy **MILLEN**	D	Kilmarnock	Hibernian
Ciriaco **SFORZA**	M	Kaiserslautern	Bayern Munich
Gordon **STRACHAN**	M	Leeds Utd	Coventry City
Chris **SWAILES**	D	Doncaster	Ipswich Town
*Diego **TUR***	*D*	*FC Copenhagen*	*Newcastle Utd*
Mitchell **VAN DER GAAG**	D	PSV Eindhoven	Motherwell
Gordon **WATSON**	F	Sheffield Wed	Southampton
Phil **WHELAN**	D	Ipswich Town	Middlesbrough
*Richard **WITSCHGE***	*M*	*Bordeaux*	*Blackburn*
Alan **WRIGHT**	D	Blackburn	Aston Villa
Paul **WRIGHT**	F	St Johnstone	Kilmarnock
Eddie **YOUDS**	D	Ipswich Town	Bradford City

** = subject to conformation*

X-WORD

WIN. . . an exclusive WORLD SOCCER sweatshirt

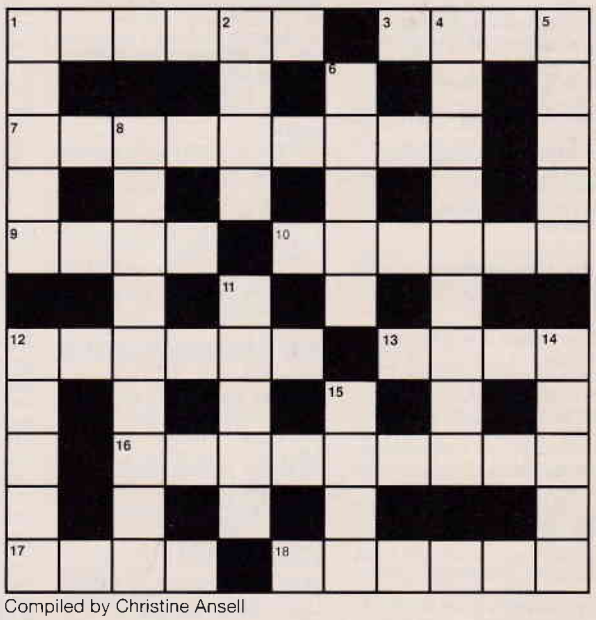
***The first five correct entries will each win a* WORLD SOCCER *sweatshirt. Send completed entries by MAY 1, to: WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD* (MAY) King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS**

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS:
Ruud Roelfs, Veendam, Holland. **Trevor Bland**, Bellingham, Cleveland. **Walter Rossen,** Deurne, Belgium. **H McColgan,** Ayr, Scotland. **Peter Dam Nielsen**, Hellerup, Dennmark.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION
ACROSS: 2. Sheffield. 6. Haifa. 7. Nadal. 9. Foggia. 10. Aris. 12 Roma. 14. Sarria. 17. Halle. 18. Remon. 19. Van Der Sar.
DOWN: 1. Wohlfarth. 2. Sting. 3 Eranio. 4. Fink. 5. Elder. 8. Las gaunas. 11. Harris. 13. Milan. 15. Romar. 16. Pele.

CLUES ACROSS
1 ..... Velez Sarsfield's penalty scorer in the 1994 World Club Cup Final (6)
3 ..... Norwegian defender established at Blackburn Rovers (4)
7 ..... Israeli striker in England with Liverpool and Spurs (9)
9 ..... French club with the Felix-Boilaert Stadium (4)
10 ..... Left full-back in England's 1966 World Cup side (6)
12 ..... Australian striker recently with Strasbourg and Lille (6)
13 ..... Bayern's ex-Karlsruhe keeper in the German squad (4)
16 ..... Moscow Spartak's veteran 40-cap USSR midfielder/defender (9)
17 ..... Nigerian forward contracted to Spain's Compostela (4)
18 ..... Polish international striker with Eintracht Frankfurt (6)

CLUES DOWN
1 ..... Innsbruck club seven times Austrian champions (5)
2 ..... Former Mexican international serving as Puebla coach (4)
4 ..... Johannesburg rugby ground, home to the Moroka Swallows (5,4)
5 ..... Colour sported by St Etienne (5)
6 ..... Coach to the Czech Republic's national side (5)
8 ..... Hiroshima club under the leadership of Wim Jansen (9)
11 ..... Italy's European Cup winners, 196 and 1965 (5)
12 ..... Penarol keeper in Uruguay's national squad (5)
14 ..... Duran, ex-Fenerbahce forward of Olimpia Ljubljana and Slovakia (5)
15 ..... South American country where Sporting Cristal reign as champions (4)



Compiled by Christine Ansell

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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_____

POSTCODE _____

MAY

RESULTS

Anderlecht reach Belgian Cup semi-finals . . . Manchester United thr

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Narbekovas 76)
VORWARTS 1 (Westerthaler 79). **Att:** 3,5000.

LINZ 2 (Werner 28, Stumpf 68)
RAPID WIEN 3 (Slivovski 5, Heraf 35, Purk 51). **Att:** 3,500.

STURM GRAZ 1 (Haas 86)
VfB MODLING 0. **Att:** 4,000.

ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Klausz 48, Bacher 80)
FC TIROL 0. **Att:** 3,000.

SALZBURG v LINZER ASK – *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

WEEKEND

LINZER ASK 1 (Metlitsky 45)
STURM GRAZ 2 (Friesenbichler 24, Schoop 78). **Att:** 5,000.

VfB MODLING 0
ADMIRA WACKER 0. **Att:** 800.

RAPID WIEN 0
SALZBURG 2 (Mladenovic 11, Pfeifenberger 59). **Att:** 2,000.

FC TIROL 1 (Danek 73)
AUSTRIA WIEN 2 (Ogris 3, Prosenik 64). **Att:** 8,000.

VORWARTS 1 (Felbermayer 79)
LINZ 0. **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

MIDWEEK

SALZBURG 0
LINZER ASK 0. **Att:** 10,000.

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Kogler 53)
LINZER ASK 1 (Lorenz 78). **Att:** 600.

LINZ 0
SALZBURG 3 (Kocijan 64, Glieder 85, Artner 90). **Att:** 9,000.

VORWARTS 2 (Madlener 60, Vukovic 65)
FC TIROL 3 (Janeschitz 32, 38, Janeschitz 38). **Att:** 4,000.

AUSTRIA WIEN 2 (Zsak 34, Mjelde 73)
MODLING 1 (Aberle 90). **Att:** 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

LINZER ASK 1 (Sabitzer 34)
AUSTRIA WIEN 0. **Att:** 6,000.

VfB MODLING 1 (Aberle 58)
VORWARTS 0. **Att:** 400.

RAPID WIEN 3 (Obrecht 36, 66, Marasek 73)
ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Klausz 45, 84). **Att:** 4,000.

FC TIROL 3 (Sane 28, Stoger 52, Janeschitz 61)
LINZ 0. **Att:** 4,000.

SALZBURG v STURM GRAZ – *postoned*

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 0
SALZBURG 1 (Pfeifenberger 26 pen). **Att:** 4,000.

LINZ 0
STURM GRAZ 2 (Haas 11, 15). **Att:** 2,000.

FC TIROL 1 (Janeschitz 19)
VfB MODLING 0. **Att:** 5,000.

VORWARTS 2 (Vukovic 38, Berchtold 44)
LINZER ASK 2 (Ramusch 5, Kartalija 90). **Att:** 6,500.

AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Mjelde 62)
RAPID 1 (Mandreko 13). **Att:** 22,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

SALZBURG 3 (Mladenovic 14, 37, Pfeifenberger 66)
AUSTRIA WIEN 0. **Att:** 14,500.

LINZER ASK 2 (Sabitzer 69, Ramusch 87)
FC TIROL 0. **Att:** 7,000.

VfB MODLING 1 (Canadi 74)
LINZ 1 (Duspara 5). **Att:** 300.

RAPID WIEN 3 (Hatz 3, Heraf 50, Kuhbauer 72)
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Westerthaler 29). **Att:** 2,000.

STURM GRAZ 2 (Haas 31, Hormann 55)
ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Klausz 28, E. Ogris 42). **Att:** 4,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....**SANE** (FC Tirol).....13
2 .....**MJELDE** (Austia Wien).....12
3 .....**STUMPF** (FC Linz).....11
4 .....**PFEIFENBERGER** (Salzburg).....10
SABITZER (Linzer ASK).....10

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	23	10	11	2	33	15	31
FK Austria	24	10	9	5	36	24	29
Rapid Wien	24	11	6	7	39	37	28
FC Tirol	24	11	5	8	39	30	27
LASK	24	8	10	6	29	23	26
Sturm Graz	23	10	6	7	31	31	26
Vorwarts Steyr	24	7	8	9	34	35	22
Admira Wacker	24	6	8	10	34	41	20
FC Linz	24	5	8	11	26	45	18
VFB Modling	24	3	5	16	21	41	11

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

LOMMEL 2 (Mu 50, Van Geneugden 80)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 9,000.

LIERSE 3 (De Smet 13, 20, Huysmans 59)
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 6,000.

GENT 0
STANDARD 1 (Wilmots 13). **Att:** 8,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 0
CHARLEROI 1 (Desloover 57). **Att:** 2,000.

ANDERLECHT 4 (Degryse 14, Weber 31, 77, 82). **Att:** 17,000.

FC LIEGE 1 (Fadida 87)
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 2,500.

OOSTENDE 2 (Claesen 17, De Waele 30)
RWDM 2 (Deglas 58, Wuyts 77). **Att:** 5,000.

EKEREN 1 (Abels 66)
ST TRIUDEN 2 (Van Houdt 51, Van Marsenille 74). **Att:** 3,500.

AALST 1 (De Bilde 83)
CLUB BRUGGE 0. **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

WEEKEND

CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Staelens 69)
ANDERLECHT 0. **Att:** 18,000.

ANTWERP 2 (Kiekens 51, Aloisi 86)
AALST 3 (Temmerman 30, De Bilde 39, 81). **Att:** 5,000.

CHARLEROI 1 (Misse-Misse 73)
EKEREN 2 (Radzinski 68, Hofmans 90). **Att:** 7,000.

STANDARD 2 (Wilmots 3, Bisconti 85)
CERCLE BRUGES 0. **Att:** 15,000.

MECHELEN 4 (Czerniatynski 8, 11, Urban 57, Van Britsom 83)
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 8,200.

RWDM 0
GENT 1 (Laeremans og 28). **Att:** 2,000.

ST TRUIDEN 1 (Vanhoudt 50)
LOMMEL 1 (Van Geneugden 52 pen). **Att:** 11,000.

OOSTENDE 1 (Claesen 71)
FC LIEGE 3 (Varga 37, Kinet 70, Essense 85). **Att:** 4,500.

SERAING 1 (Isaias 20)
BEVEREN 2 (Goots 42, Van Overtveld 87). **Att:** 3,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

WEEKEND

LOMMEL 2 (Hendrikx 76, Machiels 90)
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 4,500.

ANDERLECHT 3 (Grun 1, Preko 9, 89)
ANTWERP 1 (Severeyns 80). **Att:** 23,000.

BEVEREN 0
CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Staelens 32, Vermant 54). **Att:** 9,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 0
RWDM 0. **Att:** 2,000.

GENT 5 (Foguenne 3, 52, 58, Martens 38, Balenga 82)
OOSTENDE 0. **Att:** 6,000.

LIERSE 1 (Serneels 40)
ST TRUIDEN 0. **Att:** 5,000.

FC LIEGE 0
SERAING 1 (Lukaku 26). **Att:** 3,000.

EENDRACHT AALST 1 (Vanderhaeghe 58)
MECHELEN 1 (Asselman 5). **Att:** 8,500.

EKEREN 1 (Kovacs 45)
STANDARD 1 (Wilmots 48). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

FC LIEGE 0
EKEREN 0. **Att:** 1,200.

BELGIAN CUP – QUARTER-FINAL

ANDERLECHT 2 MECHELEN 0

WEEKEND

EENDRACHT AALST 2 (Van Ankeren 19, Meyssen 49)
LIERSE 2 (Van Kerckhoven 42, Rekdal 62). **Att:** 7,500.

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Verheyen 5, 63, Van Tieghem 69)
GENT 2 (Van Gronsveld 18, Martens 50). **Att:** 8,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

ANTWERP 0
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 4,000.

CHARLEROI 1 (Janevski pen 65)
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 5,000.

GENT 1 (Balenga 72)
FC LIEGE 0. **Att:** 4,500.

STANDARD 1 (Bettagno 31)
LOMMEL 0. **Att:** 14,000.

MECHELEN 1 (Pereira 71)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Bosman 53). **Att:** 11,000.

RWDM 0
EKEREN 0. **Att:** 2,000.

OOSTENDE 0
CERCLE BRUGES 2 (Hanganu 71, Lauwers 85). **Att:** 6,000.

ST TRUIDEN 0
EENDRACHT AALST 0. **Att:** 12,500.

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Eijkelkamp 44, Vermant 47, Staelens 73)
SERAING 3 (Isaias 83, Lukaku pen 89, 90). **Att:** 8,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....**DE BILDE** (Eendracht Aalst).....19
2 .....**VIDMAR** (Standard).....17
3 .....**WEBER** (Anderlecht).....14
STAELENS (Club Bruges).....14
HOFMANS (Ekeren).....14

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Standard Liege	29	19	7	3	44	19	45
Anderlecht	28	18	6	4	67	26	42
Club Brugge	27	16	6	5	60	27	38
Ekeren	28	11	10	7	50	31	32
Aalst	29	12	8	9	55	53	32
Lommel	28	11	8	9	34	30	30
Lierse	28	11	8	9	40	43	30
St Truiden	29	9	12	8	29	31	30
Seraing	29	10	9	10	45	39	29
Beveren	29	9	10	10	35	38	28
Charleroi	29	9	10	10	26	34	28
Gent	29	10	7	12	36	43	27
Mechelen	29	9	8	12	36	39	26
RWDM	29	8	10	11	30	35	26
Antwerp	29	8	6	15	38	48	22
Cercle Bruges	29	7	8	14	34	47	22
FC Liege	29	4	7	18	29	61	15
Oostend	29	3	8	18	27	71	14

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

MIDWEEK

IPSWICH 0
NEWCASTLE 2 (Fox 12, Kitson 38). **Att:** 18,639.

FA CUP – 5TH RND REPLAYS

WIMBLEDON 0
LIVERPOOL 2 (Barnes 10, Rush 38). **Att:** 12,553.

SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Shipperley 6, Le Tissier 32 pen)
TOTTENHAM 6 (Rosenthal 56, 58, 101, Sheringham 112, Barmby 114, Anderton 119). **Att:** 15,172. *(Aet)*

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Ndah 119)
WATFORD 0. **Att:** 10,321. *(Aet)*

WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA 0
BLACKBURN 1 (Hendry 12). **Att:** 40,114.

MAN UTD 9 (Keane 15, Cole 24, 36, 53, 65, 87, Hughes 55, 59, Ince 74)
IPSWICH 0. **Att:** 43,804.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Fowler 57, Rush 63)
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 39,300.

NOTTM F 2 (Bohinen 84, Lee 85)
TOTTENHAM 2 (Sheringham 79, Calderwood 87). **Att:** 28,771.

LEEDS 0
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Waddle 10). **Att:** 39,300.

ARSENAL 0
WEST HAM 1 (Hutchison 10). **Att:** 36,295.

WIMBLEDON 1 (Holdsworth 12)
QPR 3 (Ferdinand 24, 58, Holloway 48). **Att:** 9,176.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 14,505.

NORWICH 1 (Cureton 82)
MAN CITY 1 (Simpson 86). **Att:** 16,266.

CHELSEA 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 14,130.

LEICESTER 2 (Draper 60, Roberts 82)
EVERTON 2 (Limpar 6, Samways 45). **Att:** 20,447.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

ASTON VILLA 0
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 16,186.

WIMBLEDON 0
MAN UTD 1 (Bruce 84). **Att:** 18,224.

BLACKBURN 3 (Shearer 4, Le Saux 18, Shearer 48 pen)
ARSENAL 1 (Morrow 49). **Att:** 23,452.

MAN CITY 1 (Gaudino 4)
CHELSEA 2 (Stein 5, 81). **Att:** 21,880.

NEWCASTLE 2 (Clark 17, Kitson 52)
WEST HAM 0. **Att:** 34,595.

NORWICH 0
SHEFFIELD WED 0. **Att:** 13,530.

NOTTM FOREST 2 (Collymore 19, Pearce 54)
EVERTON 1 (Barlow 44). **Att:** 24,526.

QPR 2 (McDonald 71, Wilson 73)
LEICESTER 0. **Att:** 10,189.

TOTTENHAM 3 (Klinsmann 2, Barmby 15, Youds og 83)
IPSWICH 0. **Att:** 24,930.

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP – SEMI-FINALS, 2ND LEG

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
LIVERPOOL 1 (Fowler 27). **Att:** 18,224.
Liverpool won 2-0 on agg

BOLTON 3 (McAteer 65, Paatelainen 71, McGinlay 88)
SWINDON 1 (Fjortoft 57). **Att:** 19,851.
Bolton won 4-3 on agg

WEEKEND

CHELSEA 0
LEEDS 3 (Yeboah 25, 53, McAllister 29). **Att:** 20,174.

COVENTRY 1 (Dublin 30)
BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 88). **Att:** 18,547.

LEICESTER 2 (Lowe 16, Draper 71)
NOTTM FOREST 4 (Pearce pen 8, Collymore 64, Woan 68, Lee 90). **Att:** 20,423.

SHEFFIELD WED 0
WIMBLEDON 1 (Reeves 63). **Att:** 20,395.

WEST HAM 2 (Cottee 82, 89)
NORWICH 2 (Eadie 22, Ullathorne 54). **Att:** 21,464.

FA CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

LIVERPOOL 1 (Fowler 39)
TOTTENHAM 2 (Sheringam 45, Klinsmann 89). **Att:** 39,592.

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Dowie 53)
WOLVES 1 (Cowans 66). **Att:** 14,604.

MAN UTD 2 (Sharpe 23, Irwin 53)
QPR 0. **Att:** 42,830.

EVERTON 1 (Watson 66)
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 35,203.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

MIDWEEK

LEICESTER 1 (Roberts 22)
LEEDS 3 (Yeboah 32, 59, Palmer 79). **Att:** 20,068.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Shipperley 48)
WEST HAM 1 (Hutchison 38). **Att:** 15,178.

CRYSTAL PALACE 2 (Armstrong 55, Dowie 65)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Whittingham 31). **Att:** 10,422.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Molby pen 77, Burrows og 90)
COVENTRY 3 (Ndlovu 21, pen 35, 85). **Att:** 27,183.

EVERTON 1 (Unsworth pen 80)
MAN CITY 1 (Gaudino 26). **Att:** 28,485.

MAN UTD 0
TOTTENHAM 0. **Att:** 43,802.

QPR 2 (Ferdinand 66, Gallen 86)
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 10,519.

WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA 0
WEST HAM 2 (Moncur 11, Hutchison 49). **Att:** 28,682.

BLACKBURN 2 (Shearer 16, Sherwood 37)
CHELSEA 1 (Stein 3). **Att:** 25,490.

LEEDS 3 (Yeboah 39, Gould og 51, Wallace 56)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 29,179.

MAN CITY 3 (Rosler 37, 83, Walsh 52)
SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Whittingham 13, Hyde 21)
Att: 23,355.

NOTTM FOREST 3 (Roy 38, 81, Collymore 64)
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 24,146.

QPR 2 (Ferdinand 36, Gallen 60)
EVERTON 3 (Barlow 58, McDonald og 67, Hinchliffe 90). **Att:** 14,488.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Klinsmann 82)
LEICESTER 0. **Att:** 30,851.

WIMBLEDON 2 (Jones 36, Gayle 60)
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 8,835.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Redknapp 25, Bruce og 85)
MAN UTD 0. **Att:** 38,906.

NEWCASTLE 1 (Beardsley 89)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 35,611.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

NORWICH 3 (Cureton 53, Ward 58, Eadie 77)
IPSWICH 0. **Att:** 17,510.

QPR 1 (Gallen 62)
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 15,103.

NOTTM FOREST 3 (Roy 9, 35, Collymore 44)
LEEDS 0. **Att:** 26,299.

WIMBLEDON 2 (Thorn 59, Elkins 76)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 5,268.

MAN UTD 3 (Hughes 26, Sharpe 31, Kanchelskis 80)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 43,623.

TOTTENHAM 0
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 31,988.

SOUTHAMPTON 3 (Kitson 17, G. Watson 89, Shipperley 90)
NEWCASTLE 1 (Heaney 86). **Att:** 14,676.

FA CUP – QUARTER-FINAL REPLAY

WOLVES 1 (Kelly 35)
CRYSTAL PALACE 4 (Armstrong 33, 67, Dowie 38, Pitcher 44). **Att:** 27,584.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 5 (Hartson 4, 13, Dixon 6, Merson 75, Newman og 90)
NORWICH 1 (Cureton 32). **Att:** 36,942.

CHELSEA 1 (Peacock 38)
NEWCASTLE 1 (Hottiger 88). **Att:** 22,987.

COVENTRY 0
QPR 1 (Sinclair 85). **Att:** 15,740.

CRYSTAL PALACE 2 (Armstrong 33, Patterson 64)
MAN CITY 1 (Rosler 57). **Att:** 13,312.

EVERTON 1 (Stuart 24)
BLACKBURN 2 (Sutton 1, Shearer 7). **Att:** 37,905.

IPSWICH 0
ASTON VILLA 1 (Swailes og 90). **Att:** 15,710.

LEICESTER 3 (Robins 13, Willis 79, Lawrence 84)
WIMBLEDON 4 (Goodman 63, 90, Leonhardsen 65, 85). **Att:** 15,489.

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Bright pen 52)
NOTTM FOREST 7 (S. Pearce 17, Woan 20, Roy 48, 64, Collymore 78, 80, Bohinen 86). **Att:** 30,060.

MAN UTD 0
LEEDS 0. **Att:** 43,712.

SOUTHAMPTON 4 (Heaney 12, Le Tissier 44, 56, Magilton 61)
TOTTENHAM 3 (Sheringham 16, 58, Klinsmann 34). **Att:** 15,105.

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP – FINAL

LIVERPOOL 2 (McManaman 37, 68)
BOLTON 1 (Thompson 69). **Att:** 75,595 *(at Wembley)*.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **SHEARER** (Blackburn) 31
2 ..... **FOWLER** (Liverpool) 22
3 ..... **COLLYMORE** (Nottm Forest) 18
FERDINAND (QPR) 18
5 ..... **KLINSMANN** (Tottenham) 17

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	36	25	7	4	73	30	82
Man United	36	22	8	6	66	24	74
Newcastle	36	19	10	7	60	37	67
Nottm Forest	37	18	10	9	64	40	64
Liverpool	34	17	10	7	57	28	61
Leeds	36	16	11	9	49	33	59
Tottenham	34	14	10	10	55	46	52
Wimbledon	35	15	6	14	45	57	51
QPR	35	14	8	13	54	52	50
Sheffield Wed	37	12	10	15	45	53	46
Aston Villa	36	10	13	13	47	48	43
Arsenal	36	11	10	15	42	44	43
Coventry	36	10	13	13	37	54	43
Norwich	37	10	12	15	34	47	42
Chelsea	34	10	11	13	41	47	41
Man City	35	10	11	14	44	54	41
Southampton	34	8	15	11	49	57	39
Everton	35	9	12	14	38	48	39
Crystal Palace	34	9	11	14	25	35	38
West Ham	35	10	8	17	34	45	38
Leicester	37	5	9	23	40	71	24
Ipswich	35	6	5	24	31	80	23

FRANCE

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

NANTES 2 (Ouedec 39 pen, N'Doram 90 pen)
NICE 1 (Chaouch 5). **Att:** 19,311.

AUXERRE 1 (Baticle 24)
PARIS SG 1 (Guerin 11). **Att:** 10,000.

LYON 1 (Roy 41)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 42,741.

CANNES 2 (Pollet 20, Kozniku 87)
LENS 0. **Att:** 4,000.

SOCHAUX 0
LE HAVRE 1 (Delaunay 31).
Att: 3,145.

STRASBOURG 1 (Frankowski 58)
BORDEAUX 1 (Bancarel 50).
Att: 11,390.

MONACO 2 (Legwinski 65, Djorkaeff 89)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 3,000.

METZ 1 (N'Diaye 17)
RENNES 0. **Att:** 7,159.

BASTIA 2 (Vandecasteele 53, Rodriguez 85)
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 4,500.

CAEN 2 (Andersson 7 pen, Etame 20)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 14,829.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

FRENCH CUP – 3RD RND

LE HAVRE 0 PARIS SG 0 *(Aet)*
Paris SG won on pens

WEEKEND

BORDEAUX 1 (Dogon 12)
NANTES 1 (Ouedec 67). **Att:** 32,476.

NICE 1 (Chaouch 29)
LYON 2 (Gava 16, Maurice 66).
Att: 2,152.

LENS 1 (Wallemme 14)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 26,106.

LILLE 0
CANNES 3 (Pollet 15, Horlaville 23, 72). **Att:** 5,500.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Moravcik 30)
AUXERRE 1 (Cocard 90). **Att:** 14,799.

MARTIGUES 1 (Bertilsson 51)
MONACO 1 (Petersen 28). **Att:** 3,000.

MONTPELLIER 2 (Pavon 45,Sanchez 86)
METZ 0. **Att:** 7,633.

RENNES 2 (Ohrel 50, Grassi 88)
BASTIA 2 (Maroselli 26, Faye 67).
Att: 6,988.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 18

MIDWEEK

LE HAVRE 1 (Caveglia 78)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 8,475.

WEEKEND

FRENCH CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

NANCY 0 PARIS SG 2

METZ 2 MULHOUSE 0

MARSEILLE 2 CHATEAUROUX 0

STRASBOURG 2 BORDEAUX 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

STRASBOURG 0
LENS 0. **Att:** 9,308.

WEEKEND

NANTES 3 (Renou 36, 39, Loko 46)
LE HAVRE 2 (Lagrange 29, Daury 33).
Att: 18,497.

LYON 2 (L. Delamontagne 30, Gava 77)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Laurey 66).
Att: 7,000.

LILLE 1 (Hansen 55)
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 12,000.

CANNES 0
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 4,000.

AUXERRE 2 (Martins 18, Lamouchi 28)
RENNES 2 (Thomas 83, Denis 90).
Att: 7,000.

MONACO 6 (S. Anderson 11,15, 52,77, Ikpeba 29, Petersen 85)
BORDEAUX 3 (Dugarry 32, Grimandi 63 og, Lizarazu 76). **Att:** 4,000.

METZ 0
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 7,318.

BASTIA 2 (Drobnjak 23, Casanova 89)
ST ETIENNE 1 (Aulagnier 57).
Att: 6,000.

CAEN 0
NICE 0. **Att:** 15,364.

LEAGUE CUP – SEMI-FINALS

BASTIA 3 MONTPELLIER 1

LE HAVRE 0 PARIS SG 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 2 (Cobos 17, Ginola 36)
CANNES 1 (Charvet 84). **Att:** 32,725.

BORDEAUX 1 (Burnier og 8)
BASTIA 0. **Att:** 18,000.

LE HAVRE 0
METZ 3 (Vercruysse 18, Pouget 49, Kastendeuch pen 88). **Att:** 8,000.

MARTIGUES 2 (Tholot 59, Bernarbia pen 76)
AUXERRE 1 (Baticle 38). **Att:** 7,831.

MONTPELLIER 3 (Sanchez 10, Rival og 20, Pavon 73)
CAEN 2 (Simba 48, Etame 66).
Att: 8,500.

NICE 1 (Mege pen 53)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 3,000.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Blanc pen 73)
MONACO 0. **Att:** 16,000.

SOCHAUX 0
STRASBOURG 1 (Leboeuf pen 90).
Att: 4,000.

RENNES 1 (Gourvennec 8)
LYON 1 (Roy 69). **Att:** 9,775.

LENS 1 (Sikora 90)
NANTES 1 (Capron 45). **Att:**42,738.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **LOKO** (Nantes) 19
2 ..... **OUEDEC** (Nantes) 17
3 ..... **CAVEGLIA** (Le Havre) 16
4 ..... **MAURICE** (Lyon) 13
5 ..... **LASLANDES** (Auxerre) 11

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	32	19	13	0	61	25	70
Lyon	31	16	10	5	48	31	58
Paris SG	31	16	6	9	47	32	54
Lens	31	13	13	6	40	30	52
Cannes	32	15	6	11	45	30	51
Bordeaux	33	14	8	11	47	46	50
Monaco	32	12	10	10	42	31	46
Auxerre	33	9	17	7	46	33	44
Le Havre	32	11	11	10	40	38	44
Metz	31	12	7	12	40	38	43
Strasbourg	32	11	10	11	37	38	43
Martigues	32	10	12	10	31	39	42
Bastia	33	10	9	14	36	47	39
Lille	32	10	7	15	21	39	37
Montpellier	32	8	12	12	32	44	36
Saint Etienne	32	9	8	15	37	42	35
Nice	32	9	8	15	33	44	35
Rennes	32	8	11	13	36	51	35
Caen	31	8	5	18	30	44	29
Sochaux	32	6	5	21	27	53	23

GERMANY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 45)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0.
Att: 38,900.

VfL BOCHUM 1 (Baluszinski 1)
WERDER BREMEN 3 (Bestchastnykh 34, 37, Basler 81). **Att:** 25,000.

SC FREIBURG 3 (Heinrich 42, Dreyer 45, R. Cardoso 82)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Rath 37).
Att: 17,800.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Dahlin 38, Herrlich 70)
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Kostadinov 42, Ziege 80). **Att:** 34,500.

MSV DUISBURG 0
KARLSRUHE 0. **Att:** 19,000.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Dickhaut 60, Okocha 83)
LEVERKUSEN 0. **Att:** 19,300.

HAMBURG 3 (Sporl 42, 80 pen, Kindvall 59)
SCHALKE 0. **Att:** 21,825.

KOLN 1 (Heldt 87)
VfB STUTTGART 0. **Att:** 24,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

GERMAN CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

KAISERSLAUTERN 4 ST PAULI 2

BAYERN 1 WOLFSBURG 2

KOLN 2 KARLSRUHE 1

BORUSSIA MG 3 SCHALKE 2

WEEKEND

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Scholl 30)
DUISBURG 1 (Marin 67). **Att:** 30,000.

WERDER BREMEN 5 (Basler 2, 52, Votava 27, Herzog pen 40, Vogel og 50)
FREIBURG 1 (Spies 57). **Att:** 37,298.

LEVERKUSEN 1 (Scholz 87)
BOCHUM 3 (Michalke 8, Wegmann 34, Wosz 41). **Att:** 21,800.

BOR. DORTMUND 1 (Zorc 15)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Furtok 6). **Att:** 42,800.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 0
BORUSSIA MG 3 (Neun 16, Effenberg 52, Wynhoff 90). **Att:** 19,100.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Carl 41, 54)
HAMBURG 0. **Att:** 28,400.

STUTTGART 2 (Bobic 41, Elber 73)
KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Kuka 46, 90).
Att: 28,000.

UERDINGEN 0
KOLN 0. **Att:** 18,800.

SCHALKE 6 (Kohn 27, 42, Mulder 30, Nemec 78, Latal 79, Lehmann pen 84)
1860 MUNICH 2 (Kutschera 53, Erhard 86). **Att:** 36,830.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

WEEKEND

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Dahlin 69, Herrlich 84)
WERDER BREMEN 0. **Att:** 30,222.

KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kadlec 22)
UERDINGEN 1 (Kadlec 22).
Att: 34,786.

BORUSSA DORTMUND 0
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Lehnhoff 31, Munch 75, Thom 76). **Att:** 42,800.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Tschadadze 47, R. Weber 60)
VfB STUTTGART 2 (T. Schneider 1, Bobic 69). **Att:** 21,000.

FREIBURG 1 (Wassmer 87)
BOCHUM 2 (Wegmann pen 17, Wosz 63). **Att:** 17,500.

HAMBURG 1 (Albertz 90)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Scholl pen 69).
Att: 60,000.

KOLN 5 (Labbadia 18, Steinmann 22, Polster 25, Greiner 49, Thon og 73)
SCHALKE 1 (Kohn 4). **Att:** 38,000.

1860 MUNICH 1 (Winkler 35)
KARLSRUHE 0. **Att:** 23,100.

DUISBURG 1 (Weidemann 44)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Lesiak 55).
Att: 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

1860 MUNICH 1 (Nowak 70)
UERDINGEN 1 (Feldhoff 23).
Att: 23,250.

WEEKEND

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Voller 42, Hapal 86)
FREIBURG 4 (Wassmer 18, 23, Heinrich 60, Buric 82). **Att:** 22,900.

BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Feldhoff 68)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Binz 83). **Att:** 10,960.

WERDER BREMEN 5 (Ramzy 18, Basler 24, Hobsch 36, Bode 67, A. Herzog 83)
DUISBURG 1 (Marin 78). **Att:** 31,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Scholl 11)
1860 MUNICH 0. **Att:** 63,000.

BOCHUM 0
BORUSSIA MG 2 (Kastenmaier 12, Herrlich 78). **Att:** 37,689.

DYN DRESDEN 1 (Ordenewitz og 80)
HAMBURG 1 (Albertz 56). **Att:** 12,100.

KARSLRUHE 0
KOLN 0. **Att:** 25,000.

SCHALKE 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 6).
Att: 27,900.

VfB STUTTGART 0
BOR. DORTMUND 0. **Att:** 52,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

DUISBURG 3 (Krohm 29, Schutterle 48, Marin pen 64)
BOCHUM 1 (Waldoch 28). **Att:** 25,000.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
SCHALKE 3 (H. Herzog 48, Latal 57, Dikhtiar 75). **Att:** 19,100.

BORUSSIA MG 1 (Dahlin 17)
FREIBURG 2 (Buric 13, Wassmer 15).
Att: 32,680.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Kree 15, Zorc pen 54, Tanko 86)
BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Passlack 89). **Att:** 43,500.

KAISERSLAUTERN 0
KARLSRUHE 0. **Att:** 38,000.

KOLN 3 (Thiam 43, Polster 62, 73)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Babbel 45).
Att: 54,000.

VfB STUTTGART 4 (Elber 16, Buck 32, Kienle 54, Elber 72)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Sergio pen 34, Voller 45). **Att:** 20,000.

1860 MUNICH 3 (Erhard 26, Winkler 48, 69)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (M. Spies 49). **Att:** 23,000.

HAMBURG 0
WERDER BREMEN 0. **Att:** 42,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **CARDOSO** (SC Freiburg) 15
2 ..... **POLSTER** (Koln) 14
HERRLICH (Borussia MG) 14
BASLER (Werder Bremen) 14
5 ..... **CHAPUISAT** (Bor. Dortmund) 12

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bor. Dortmund	25	15	7	3	51	22	37
Werder Bremen	25	16	5	4	49	25	37
SC Freiburg	25	15	4	6	53	35	34
Kaiserslautern	25	12	10	3	35	25	34
Borussia Mg	25	13	6	6	52	31	32
Bayern Munich	25	9	13	3	42	33	31
Karlsruhe	25	8	11	6	34	31	27
Koln	25	9	7	9	42	41	25
Leverkusen	25	8	8	9	43	38	24
Hamburg	25	8	8	9	32	31	24
VfB Stuttgart	25	8	8	9	43	47	24
Schalke	25	7	9	9	33	35	23
Ein. Frankfurt	25	7	8	10	27	39	22
Uerdingen	25	4	10	11	27	36	18
1860 Munich	25	4	8	13	26	47	16
VfL Bochum	25	6	3	16	28	51	15
MSV Duisburg	25	4	7	14	20	44	15
Dyn. Dresden	25	3	6	16	22	48	12

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

NAC 2 (Gerritsen 64, Renie 70)
MVV 1 (Roelofsen 37). **Att:** 10,355.

VOLENDAM v UTRECHT – *postponed*

FEYENOORD 4 (Blinker 1, 42, Kiprich 32, Glaucio 40 pen)
GRONINGEN 1 (Bombarda 73 pen).
Att: 7,500.

TWENTE 0
WILLEM II 3 (Sylla 1, 44, Laros 29).
Att: 5,100.

AJAX v SPARTA – *postponed*

RKC 1 (Petrov 28)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Regtop 47).
Att: 2,250.

VITESSE 3 (Makaag 32 pen, 47, Simmons 37)
GA EAGLES 0. **Att:** 4,500.

PSV 3 (Ronaldo 43, 60, Meijer 62)
NEC BREDA 0. **Att:** 24,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

NAC BREDA 1 (Arnold 66)
PSV 2 (Zenden 44, Meijer 71).
Att: 10,850.

GA EAGLES 0
FC TWENTE 2 (Bruggink 80, Mols 82). **Att:** 5,850.

RKC 0
VITESSE 0. **Att:** 2,500.

VOLENDAM 1 (Vukov 25)
DORDRECHT 0. **Att:** 2,000.

WILLEM II 3 (Laros 24, 36, 85)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Regtop 13).
Att: 5,960.

DUTCH CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

AJAX 1 (R. De Boer 26)
FEYENOORD 2 (Heus pen 60, Obiku 94). **Att:** 37,500. *(Asdet)*

UTRECHT 2 (Hernandez 59, Graanoogst 86)
AJAX RESERVES 1 (Musampa 87).
Att: 14,000.

WEEKEND

MVV 1 (Roelofsen)
VOLENDAM 1 (Steur 1). **Att:** 8,500.

UTRECHT 0
FEYENOORD 0. **Att:** 14,000.

HEERENVEEN 1 (Echteld 83)
PSV 2 (Valckx 46, Nilis 89). **Att:** 13,500.

WILLEM II 1 (Feskens 2)
RKC 0. **Att:** 8,050.

GA EAGLES 1 (Schenning 49)
AJAX 2 (Litmanen 74, Kanu 90).
Att: 10,000.

DORDRECHT 2 (Hoop 40, 89)
NAC 5 (Arnold 24, 53, 78, 90, Van Wonderen 48). **Att:** 2,854.

NEC 0
VITESSE 1 (Korsten 83). **Att:** 7,800.

GRONINGEN 1 (Bombarda 71)
TWENTE 2 (Bruggink 13, Platvoet 89).
Att: 12,014.

SPARTA 0
RODA JC 0. **Att:** 4,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

WEEKEND

TWENTE 2 (Platvoet 24, Bosvelt 58)
UTRECHT 1 (Hernandez 65).
Att: 8,200.

PSV 3 (Nilis 26, Ronaldo 42, Latupeirissa 69 og)
WILLEM II 2 (Feskens 13, Sylla 18).
Att: 27,3000.

RODA JC 3 (Iwan 37, De Kock 41, Van de Luer 90)
GA EAGLES 2 (Rorije 21, Decheiver pen 65). **Att:** 8,000.

DORDRECHT 3 (Wouden 19, 89, Atmodikoro pen 54)
SPARTA 1 (Saandel 34). **Att:** 1,910.

NAC 0
VOLENDAM 1 (Binken 51).
Att: 10,512.

RKC 3 (Petrov 8, Van Arum 23, 73)
GRONINGEN 0. **Att:** 1,800.

FEYENOORD 6 (Witschge 8, Larsson 13, Trustfull 15, Kiprich pen 49, Scholten 73, Glaucio 90)
MVV 1 (Lanckohr 38). **Att:** 24,427.

AJAX 5 (Litmanen 18, 22, 88, Kanu 74, Seedorf 78)
NEC 1 (Pothuizen 55). **Att:** 18,743.

VITESSE 3 (Makaay 22, Korsten 64, Ten Caat 74)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Regtop 79).
Att: 6,300.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

AJAX 8 (Seedorf 2, Kanu 14, F. De Boer 18, 30, Litmanen 37, 47, Van Eck 57 pen, Blind 81)
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 18,471.

DUTCH CUP – SEMI-FINALS

HEERENVEEN 0
FEYENOORD 1 (Blinker 87).
Att: 13,500.

UTRECHT 0
VOLENDAM 1 (Smeets 79).
Att: 11,000.

WEEKEND

FEYENOORD 1 (Glaucio 55)
RODA JC 2 (Graef 22, 42).
Att: 30,345.

RESULTS

Lazio thrash Fiorentina 8-2 . . . Milan win 5-0 in Brescia . . . Spanish

DORDRECHT 3 (Hoop 17, Wouden 55, 74)
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 1,922.

MVV 1 (Van As 4)
HEERENVEEN 0. **Att:** 5,200.

TWENTE 0
AJAX 1 (Kanu 16). **Att:** 13,500.

UTRECHT 2 (Gorter 8, 80 pen)
GA EAGLES 2 (Rorije 50, Kammeron 69). **Att:** 4,500.

NAC 1 (Arnold 32)
GRONINGEN 3 (Sion 24, Bombarda 36, Gorre 78). **Att:** 10,700.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

UTRECHT 0
RKC 0. **Att:** 5,000.

HEERENVEEN 3 (Regtop 9, Tomasson 12, Alberda 52)
AJAX 3 (Litmanen 17, 44, Kanu 72). **Att:** 13,500.

GRONINGEN 3 (Sion 12, 60, Koeman 37)
PSV 3 (Valckx 52, Ronaldo 70). **Att:** 14,300.

GA EAGLES 1 (Valk 65)
DORDRECHT 3 (Atmodikoro pen 25, Langerak 49, Wouden 89). **Att:** 6,005.

SPARTA 1 (Van der Laan 73)
NAC 2 (Arnold 25, Van Bremen 90). **Att:** 3,500.

VOLENDAM 0
FEYENOORD 3 (Obiku 23, Scholten 40, Kiprich 83). **Att:** 8,500.

MVV 0
TWENTE 1 (Hoogma 62). **Att:** 5,800.

WILLEM II 1 (Laros 55)
VITESSE 1 (Makaay 51). **Att:** 6,483.

NEC 3 (Hoekman 4, Van Wanrooy 35, Kooistra 75)
RODA JC 1 (Atteveld 3). **Att:** 4,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....RONALDO (PSV) 21
2 .....KLUIVERT (Ajax) 16
3 .....LITMANEN (Ajax) 14
4 .....BOOGERS (RKC/Sparta) 13
GRAEF (Roda JC) 13

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	28	21	7	0	85	23	49
Roda JC	28	18	8	2	52	22	44
PSV	28	17	6	5	70	33	40
FC Twente	28	16	7	5	58	38	39
Feyenoord	27	16	5	6	58	39	37
Vitesse Arnhem	28	11	11	6	43	34	33
Willem II	29	12	7	10	40	40	31
Volendam	27	7	11	9	28	37	25
RKC Waalwijk	28	8	9	11	36	41	25
Heerenveen	28	10	5	13	42	51	25
Groningen	28	8	9	11	40	48	25
NAC Breda	28	8	7	13	43	47	23
Utrecht	27	6	9	12	33	47	21
MVV	28	7	7	14	33	54	21
Sparta	28	6	7	15	34	53	19
NEC Nijmegen	27	6	6	15	37	52	18
Dordrecht	29	4	6	19	28	59	14
GA Eagles	28	2	9	17	24	66	13

ITALY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

INTERNAZIONALE 0
JUVENTUS 0. **Att:** 76,000.

TORINO 0
PARMA 2 (Zola 32, D. Baggio 88). **Att:** 22,000.

SAMPDORIA 3 (M. Rossi 25, Gullit 48, 77)
AS ROMA 0. **Att:** 25,000.

LAZIO 8 (Casiraghi 4, 49, 81, 90 pen, Negro 29, Cravero 35 pen, Boksic 57, Di Maio 86)
FIORENTINA 2 (Rui Costa 60, Batistuta 74 pen). **Att:** 44,000.

BRESCIA 0
MILAN 5 (Simone 45, 57, 69, Maldini 74, Stroppa 85). **Att:** 14,000.

CAGLIARI 2 (Dely Valdes 16, Muzzi 41)
BARI 1 (Amoruso 5). **Att:** 15,000.

PADOVA 2 (Franceshetti 65, Longhi 70 pen)
NAPOLI 0. **Att:** 14,000.

FOGGIA 0
CREMONESE 1 (Chiesa 90 pen). **Att:** 12,000.

REGGIANA 0
GENOA 1 (Skuhravy 31). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS, 1ST LEG

LAZIO 0 JUVENTUS 1

FOGGIA 1 PARMA 1

WEEKEND

BARI 0
INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Dell'Anno 63). **Att:** 40,000.

CREMONESE 2 (Milanese 50, Chiesa 77)
CAGLIARI 0. **Att:** 8,200.

FIORENTINA 1 (Carbone 82)
REGGIANA 1 (Esposito 28). **Att:** 30,556.

GENOA 1 (Skuhravy 90)
BRESCIA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

JUVENTUS 2 (Ravanelli 56, Baggio 64)
FOGGIA 0. **Att:** 45,000.

MILAN 1 (Simone 27)
PADOVA 0. **Att:** 52,000.

NAPOLI 3 (Rincon 49, 56, Buso 88)
LAZIO 2 (Casiraghi 20, 40). **Att:** 32,320.

PARMA 3 (Zola 19, 75, Asprilla 22)
SAMPDORIA 2 (Lombardo pen 56, Gullit 65). **Att:** 25,000.

AS ROMA 1 (Fonseca 40)
TORINO 1 (Rizzitelli 8). **Att:** 52,687.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

WEEKEND

BARI 1 (Tovalieri 4)
NAPOLI 1 (Fontana og 29). **Att:** 21,000.

BRESCIA 1 (Neri 41)
TORINO 4 (Pele 7, Rizzitelli 18, Silenzi 28, 46 pen). **Att:** 8,200.

CAGLIARI 0
AS ROMA 1 (Balbo pen 19). **Att:** 30,000.

INTERNAZIONALE 3 (Bressan og 39, Berti 43, Bergkamp 74)
FOGGIA 0. **Att:** 34,000.

JUVENTUS 1 (Vialli 72)
CREMONESE 0. **Att:** 42,000.

LAZIO 4 (Bacci 10, Chamot 18, Fuser 44, Di Maio 56)
GENOA 0. **Att:** 38,447.

PADOVA 0
FIORENTINA 1 (Rui Costa 62). **Att:** 16,000.

REGGIANA 2 (Esposito 19, Simutenkov 67)
PARMA 2 (Fernando Couto 25, Minotti 39). **Att:** 15,000.

SAMPDORIA 0
MILAN 3 (Simone 11, Albertini 70, pen 90). **Att:** 25,800.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

MILAN 0
JUVENTUS 2 (Ravanelli 41, Vialli 83). **Att:** 81,500.

AS ROMA 1 (Balbo 22)
PARMA 0. **Att:** 65,000.

CREMONESE 0
LAZIO 0. **Att:** 9,000.

FIORENTINA 4 (Di Mauro 4, Batistuta 11, Rui Costa 60, Flachi 89)
BRESCIA 0. **Att:** 35,000.

FOGGIA 4 (Bresciani 17, Cappellini 28, Padalino 40, Nicoli 61)
PADOVA 1 (Kreek 32). **Att:** 13,741.

GENOA 1 (Onorati 16)
BARI 1 (Tovalieri pen 62). **Att:** 20,000.

NAPOLI 2 (Carbone 32, Agostini 43)
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 45,000.

REGGIANA 0
INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Bergomi 69). **Att:** 15,000.

TORINO 3 (Rizzitelli 43, Pele 77, 79)
CAGLIARI 2 (Muzzi 3, 64). **Att:** 19,878.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....BATISTUTA (Fiorentina) 20
2 .....BALBO (AS Roma) 16
3 .....TOVALIERI (Bari) 15
4 .....VIALLI (Juventus) 13
SIGNORI (Lazio) 13

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	26	18	4	4	42	22	58
Parma	26	14	7	5	42	25	49
AS Roma	26	12	9	5	31	18	45
Milan	26	12	9	5	36	26	45
Lazio	26	13	5	8	57	31	44
Internazionale	26	11	8	7	27	20	41
Fiorentina	26	10	10	6	46	39	40
Torino	26	11	6	9	33	31	39
Sampdoria	26	10	8	8	40	28	38
Cagliari	26	10	8	8	30	29	38
Napoli	26	8	11	7	31	35	35
Bari	26	9	5	12	28	35	32
Padova	26	9	2	15	29	50	29
Foggia	26	7	7	12	26	37	28
Genoa	26	7	7	12	25	38	28
Cremonese	26	7	5	14	21	29	26
Reggiana	26	3	5	18	17	36	14
Brescia	26	2	6	18	14	48	12

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

BELENENSES 0
BRAGA 1 (Toni 82). **Att:** 5,000.

ESTRELA 0
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 4,200.

FARENSE 3 (Hagry 27, Jorge Soares 66, Hassan 82)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 5,000.

SPORTING LISBON 1 (Balakov 82)
SALGUEIROS 0. **Att:** 10,000.

GUIMARAES 2 (Pedro Martins 52 pen, 71 pen)
UNIAO 1 (Pia 21). **Att:** 12,000.

CHAVES 0
VITORIA SETUBAL 0. **Att:** 6,000.

GIL VICENTE 1 (Miguel 70 pen)
UNIAO LEIRIA 1 (Reinaldo 48). **Att:** 63,000.

FC PORTO 2 (J Carlos 7, Drulovic 74)
BENFICA 1 (J Pinto 38). **Att:** 75,000.

MARITIMO 2 (Alex 9, Soeiro 66)
BOAVISTA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

PORTUGUESE CUP – 6TH RND

ACAD VISEU 0 SETUBAL 1

MARITIMO 2 AMADORA 1

OL. MOSCAVIDE 1 BRAGA 0

OVARENSE 2 RIO AVE 0

LECA 1 FARENSE 0 *(Aet)*

WEEKEND

BENFICA 0
GIL VICENTE 1 (Mangonga 59). **Att:** 10,000.

TIRSENSE 1 (Evandro 19)
SPORTING LISBON 1 (Chiquinho Conde 56). **Att:** 8,000.

BEIRA-MAR 3 (Tarcisio 22, Punisic pen 66, Toni 69)
BELENENSES 2 (Joao Pinto pen 12, Caio Junior 50). **Att:** 11,850.

SPORTING BRAGA 2 (Toni 48, Karogian 88)
AMADORA 0. **Att:** 12,000.

UNIAO LEIRIA 1 (Poeio 63)
CHAVES 0. **Att:** 7,300.

UNIAO 3 (Manu 65, Milton Mendes 67, Pedro Paulo 75)
FARENSE 0. **Att:** 5,000.

FC PORTO 4 (Domininogs 5, Drulovic 13, Folha 41, Baroni 87)
MARTIMO 1 (C Jorge 35). **Att:** 70,000.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Rui Alberto 28, Edmilson 38)
BOAVISTA 1 (Abazaj 77). **Att:** 8,000.

VITORIA SETUBAL 1 (Helio 61)
GUIMARAES 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

WEEKEND

SPORTING LISBON 3 (Amunike 10, Yordanov 13, Figo 65)
SPORTING BRAGA 1 (Barroso 32). **Att:** 8,000.

BELENENSES 3 (Joao Pinto 27, Luis Gustavo 49, M'Jid 70)
UNIAO 0. **Att:** 5,000.

BOAVISTA 2 (Abazaj 42, Sanchez 53)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 7,800.

CHAVES 0
BENFICA 1 (Edilson 68). **Att:** 12,000.

AMADORA 1 (Rui Neves pen 69)
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Miguel Barros 64). **Att:** 6,200.

FARENSE 2 (H. Nader 41, King 44)
VITORIA SETUBAL 0. **Att:** 9,300.

MARITIMO 2 (P Alves 5, Bunbury 41)
SALGUEIROS 2 (Rui Alberto 34, Binha 65). **Att:** 8,000.

GUIMARAES 3 (Pedro Barbosa 13, Zahovic 45, Ricardo 70)
UNIAO LEIRIA 0. **Att:** 12,000.

GIL VICENTE 0
FC PORTO 1 (Emerson 74). **Att:** 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

WEEKEND

BEIRA-MAR 0
SPORTING LISBON 1 (Amunike 6). **Att:** 7,000.

FC PORTO 2 (Domingos 24, Secretario 42)
CHAVES 0. **Att:** 2,500.

BENFICA 1 (Edilson 24)
GUIMARAES 3 (Quim Berto 6, Gilmar 44, Jose Carlos 69). **Att:** 30,000.

SPORTING BRAGA 1 (Luisinho 76)
BOAVISTA 2 (Artur 49, Caetano 90). **Att:** 7,000.

GIL VICENTE 3 (Mangonga 59, 68, Walter Paz 82)
MARITIMO 2 (Paulo Alves 36, 67). **Att:** 6,300.

UNIAO LEIRIA 5 (Bertolazzi 1, 45, 65, Reinaldo 29, Lula 55)
FARENSE 0. **Att:** 8,320.

UNIAO 0
ESTRELA AMADORA 1 (Peixe 90). **Att:** 5,000.

TIRSENSE 1 (Marcelo Cipriano 67)
SALGUEIROS 3 (Edmilson 17, 34, 53 pen). **Att:** 7,800.

VITORIA SETUBAL 0
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

MIDWEEK

PORTUGUESE CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

BENFICA 0 SETUBAL 0 *(Aet)*

LECA 0 FC PORTO 4

MARITIMO 2 OVARENSE 1

OL. MOSCAVIDE 1 SPORTING 6

WEEKEND

FARENSE 4 (Jorge Soares 25, N'Daw 69, 89, Hassan Nader 80)
BENFICA 1 (Edilson 28). **Att:** 14,000.

BELENENSES 0
UNIAO LEIRIA 0. **Att:** 5,500.

BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 21)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 4,300.

CHAVES 2 (Edinho 26, Joao Pedro 89)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Mangonga 76). **Att:** 5,000.

ESTRELA AMADORA 0
VITORIA SETUBAL 0. **Att:** 4,800.

SPORTING LISBON 4 (Yordanov 17, 33, 77, Amunike 41)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. **Att:** 10,561.

SALGUEIROS 0
SPORTING BRAGA 0. **Att:** 5,000.

GUIMARAES 0
FC PORTO 1 (Domingos 67). **Att:** 1,500.

MARITIMO 1 (Luis Fernando 46)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 5,890.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....HASSAN NADER (Farense) 15
Marcelo CIPRIANO (Tirsense) 15
3 .....ISAIAS (Benfica) 12
ARTUR (Boavista) 12
DOMINGOS (FC Porto) 12

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	28	24	3	1	60	12	51
Sporting Lisbon	28	19	8	1	48	16	46
Benfica	28	18	3	7	49	25	39
Guimaraes	28	14	7	7	47	37	35
Leiria	28	11	8	9	35	34	30
Tirsense	28	12	5	11	30	25	29
Boavista	28	12	5	11	34	37	29
Farense	28	11	5	12	31	35	27
Maritimo	27	10	7	10	31	34	27
Spt. Braga	28	9	7	12	28	38	25
Salgueiros	28	10	5	13	38	40	25
Gil Vicente	28	7	9	12	26	33	23
Belenenses	28	8	6	14	25	29	22
Amadora	28	6	10	12	25	35	22
Chaves	27	8	6	13	26	40	22
Beira-Mar	28	7	4	17	27	44	18
Uniao Madeira	28	5	8	15	23	45	18
Vit. Setubal	28	2	10	16	19	39	14

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

CELTIC 2 (Van Hooijdonk 40 pen, 78)
ABERDEEN 0. **Att:** 20,632.

HIBERNIAN 1 (Wright 75)
RANGERS 1 (McCall 58). **Att:** 12,062.

KILMARNOCK 2 (Mitchell 6, 44)
DUNDEE UTD 0. **Att:** 7,630.

MOTHERWELL v FALKIRK – *postponed*

PARTICK THISTLE 0
HEARTS 0. **Att:** 1,150 *(abandoned after 45 mins, snow)*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

PARTICK THISTLE 2 (Smith 71, Foster 90)
DUNDEE UTD 2 (May 54, Kirk 75). **Att:** 6,100.

MOTHERWELL 2 (Lambert 6, May 54)
FALKIRK 2 (McLaughlin 11, Kirk 75). **Att:** 6,100.

WEEKEND

RANGERS 2 (Laudrup pen 45, Brown 65)
FALKIRK 2 (McDonald 26, 56). **Att:** 43,359.

PARTICK THISTLE 2 (Pittman 52, Turner 73)
ABERDEEN 2 (Wright 8, Dodds 43). **Att:** 7,889.

SCOTTISH CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

CELTIC 1 (Collins 44 pen)
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 30,873.

STENHOUSEMUIR 0
HIBERNIAN 4 (Harper 50, 78, Tortolano 64, O'Neill 70). **Att:** 2,500.

RAITH ROVERS 1 (Cameron 83)
AIRDRIE 4 (Harvey 21, 79, Davies 35, Black 59 pen). **Att:** 7,130.

HEARTS 2 (Millar 21, 42)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Sergio 4). **Att:** 12,515.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

MIDWEEK

PARTICK THISTLE 0
MOTHERWELL 0. **Att:** 3,840.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 0
HIBERNIAN 0. **Att:** 10,400.

HEARTS 2 (Robertson 9, Millar 30)
RANGERS 1 (Laudrup 44). **Att:** 9,809.

MOTHERWELL 2 (Burns 54, Arnott 56)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Malpas 64). **Att:** 4,457.

CELTIC v PARTICK THISTLE – *postponed*

FALKIRK v KILMARNOCK – *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Sergio 66)
HEARTS 1 (Johnston 28). **Att:** 6,862.

HIBERNIAN 2 (Wright 10, 53)
MOTHERWELL 0. **Att:** 5,402.

KILMARNOCK 0
CELTIC 1 (Walker 86). **Att:** 10,112.

WEEKEND

FALKIRK 2 (Kirk 6, McDonald 76)
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 5,714.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 0
KILMARNOCK 1 (Skilling 50). **Att:** 12,500.

CELTIC 1 (Walker 78)
MOTHERWELL 1 (Coyne pen 50). **Att:** 24,047.

DUNDEE UTD 0
RANGERS 2 (Durie 1, McLaren 8). **Att:** 11,500.

HEARTS 0
FALKIRK 1 (McGrillen 41). **Att:** 9,003.

PARTICK THISTLE 2 (Foster 46, pen 84)
HIBERNIAN 2 (Wright 13, Harper 67). **Att:** 4,341.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **COYNE** (Motherwell) 16
2 ..... **HATELEY** (Rangers) 12
3 ..... **DODDS** (Aberdeen) 10
LAUDRUP (Rangers) 10
JACKSON (Hibernian) 10

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	31	18	8	5	55	28	62
Motherwell	31	11	12	8	44	44	45
Hibernian	30	9	16	5	41	29	43
Celtic	29	8	17	4	31	25	41
Falkirk	31	10	11	10	42	43	41
Hearts	30	10	7	13	37	42	37
Kilmarnock	30	9	9	12	34	40	36
Partick	30	8	10	12	34	45	34
Dundee United	31	8	9	14	35	49	33
Aberdeen	31	6	11	14	34	42	29

SPAIN

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

REAL OVIEDO 1 (Jokanovic 31)
VALENCIA 0. Att: 16,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 5 (Kodro 13, 28, 71, 89, Iturrino 62)
TENERIFE 2 (Chano 85, Donte 90).
Att: 18,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Monteiss 11)
SEVILLA 1 (Suker 77). Att: 12,000.

BARCELONA 3 (Koeman 14 pen, Beguiristain 46, Amor 89)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. Att: 75,000.

REAL BETIS 2 (Alexis 20, Sabas 88)
SANTANDER 0. Att: 40,000.

CELTA VIGO 1 (Toni 26 og)
ESPANYOL 2 (Raducioiu 57, Luis 76).
Att: 18,000.

LA CORUNA 1 (Julio Salinas 24)
COMPOSTELA 0. Att: 28,000.

LOGRONES 0
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Guerrero 89).
Att: 12,000.

REAL MADRID 4 (Hierro 34, Amavisca 38, Redondo 45, Laudrup 61)
SPORTING GIJON 0. Att: 100,000.

REAL VALLADOLID 0
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Belodedici og 77). Att: 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MIDWEEK

SPANISH CUP – QUARTER-FINALS, 1ST LEG

AT. MADRID 1 ALBACETE 1

MALLORCA 1 VALENCIA 0

GIJON 1 RAYO VALLECANO 1

LA CORUNA 3 ATH. BILBAO 0

WEEKEND

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Ivan Rocha pen 45, 50)
BARCELONA 0. Att: 55,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Pardeza 27)
LA CORUNA 0. Att: 30,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Guerrero 50)
ALBACETE 2 (Zalazar 6, Antonio 36).
Att: 30,000.

COMPOSTELA 2 (Ohen 6, 90)
CELTA VIGO 0. Att: 12,000.

ESPANYOL 0
REAL BETIS 0. Att: 30,000.

GIJON 2 (Pier 23, Pablo 85)
LOGRONES 2 (Gudelj 4, Javi Delgado 16). Att: 21,000.

SANTANDER 3 (Radchenko 53, Esteban Torre 64, Popov 81)
REAL MADRID 1 (Zamorano 34).
Att: 23,080.

SEVILLA 2 (Marcos 36, Suker 90)
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. Att: 30,000.

TENERIFE 1 (Pizzi 77)
REAL OVIEDO 1 (Oli 44). Att: 16,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Roberto 42, Mendieta 59, Mijatovic 85)
REAL VALLADOLID 0. Att: 45,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

WEEKEND

ATHLETIC BILBAO 0
SEVILLA 2 (Marcos 34, Dumitrescu 71). Att: 25,000.

LA CORUNA 0
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Manolo 68).
Att: 27,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Bjelica 17)
SPORTING GIJON 2 (Velasco 40, Sabou 76). Att: 11,000.

BARCELONA 0
VALENCIA 0. Att: 85,000.

REAL BETIS 1 (Cuellar 60)
COMPOSTELA 0. Att: 35,000.

CELTA VIGO 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 0.
Att: 15,000.

LOGRONES 0
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Quique Setien 34). Att: 12,000.

REAL OVIEDO 3 (Oli 20, Maqueda 22, Jokanovic 77)
REAL SOCIEDAD 0.
Att: 16,000.

REAL MADRID 1 (Zamorano 45)
ESPANYOL 0. Att: 95,000.

REAL VALLADOLID 1 (Nilson 77)
TENERIFE 4 (Pizzi 4, 54, 70, Chano 64). Att: 14,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

MIDWEEK

SPANISH CUP – QUARTER-FINALS, 2ND LEG

ATHLETIC BILBAO 0
LA CORUNA 0
La Coruna won 3-0 on agg

VALENCIA 4
MALLORCA 0
Valencia won 4-1 on agg

RAYO VALLECANO 0
SPORTING GIJON 1
Sporting Gijon won 2-1 on agg

ALBACETE 1
ATLETICO MADRID 0
Albacete won 2-1 on agg

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

VALENCIA 1 (Penev 89)
LA CORUNA 2 (Aldana 38, Otero og 47). Att: 45,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Esnaider 30, Higuera 54, 83)
REAL BETIS 0.
Att: 34,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 0
CELTA VIGO 2 (Mariano 28, Gudelj 90). Att: 40,000.

COMPOSTELA 1 (Fabiano 51)
REAL MADRID 1 (Raul 40).
Att: 11,500.

ESPANYOL 2 (Arteaga 46, Raducioiu 54)
LOGRONES 0. Att: 30,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Tomas 30)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Valverde 64).
Att: 25,600.

RACING SANTANDER 2 (Mutiu 6, Christiansen 24)
ALBACETE 1 (Zalazar pen 27).
Att: 16,000.

SEVILLA 1 (Suker pen 39)
REAL OVIEDO 1 (Carlos 90).
Att: 30,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 3 (Kodro 20, Olakez 73, Kodro 88)
REAL VALLADOLID 0.
Att: 20,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Ramis 70, Llorente 85)
BARCELONA 1 (Amor 60).
Att: 22,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **ZAMORANO** (Real Madrid) 21
2 ..... **KODRO** (Real Sociedad) 20
3 ..... **SUKER** (Sevilla) 14
4 ..... **CARLOS** (Real Oviedo) 12
PIZZI (Tenerife) 12

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	28	17	8	3	63	21	42
La Coruna	28	14	8	6	44	25	36
Barcelona	28	14	7	7	45	35	35
Real Betis	28	11	12	5	33	17	34
Real Zaragoza	28	14	5	9	38	35	33
Espanyol	28	10	10	8	34	27	30
Sevilla	28	11	8	9	35	30	30
Athletic Bilbao	28	10	10	8	24	25	30
Real Oviedo	28	10	9	9	34	30	29
Tenerife	28	11	7	10	42	39	29
Valencia	28	9	10	9	37	32	28
Real Sociedad	28	8	11	9	39	36	27
Racing Santander	28	10	5	13	33	37	25
Compostela	28	8	9	11	30	36	25
Celta Vigo	28	7	11	10	23	34	25
Atletico Madrid	28	9	6	13	40	42	24
Albacete	28	6	12	10	34	42	24
Sporting Gijon	28	7	10	11	34	49	24
Real Valladolid	28	6	8	14	19	50	20
Logrones	28	1	8	19	9	49	10

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 5

WEEKEND

BASLE 3 (Moser 7, Walker 43, Kunz 73)
SION 1 (Hertig 78). Att: 14,000.

LUCERNE 1 (Guntensperger 28)
NEUTCHATEL XAMAX 0.
Att: 7,900.

LAUSANNE 0
AARAU 1 (Fink 51). Att: 3,750.

LUGANO 0
GRASSHOPPER 2 (Vega 22, Magnin 31). Att: 5,600.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 12

WEEKEND

AARAU 3 (Skrzypczak 37, Fink 72, Rathino 90)
LUGANO 3 (Englund 35, Sinval 67, Fernandez pen 84). Att: 6,100.

GRASSHOPPER 4 (Magnin 40, Subiat 72, 81, 90)
LAUSSANNE 2 (Badea 42, Sogbie 64). Att: 5,550.

SION 2 (Kunz 37, Quattara 65) -
LUCERNE 1 (Guntensperger 67).
Att: 7,500.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX v BASLE – *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 19

WEEKEND

SWISS CUP – 4TH RND

DELEMONT 2 NEURCHTEL 1

CHENOIS 2 YVERDON 0

BASLE 3 AARAU 0

THUN 1 BELLINZONA 2

BURGDORF 0 LUGANO 5

SUBINGEN 0 SCHAFFHOUSEN 4

FC FREIENBACH 2 IEHEN 1

RED STAR ZURICH 0 LUZERN 1

FC SURSEE 0 GRASSHOPPER 2

CHIASSO 0 FC ZURICH 2

FC RENENS 3 SION 1 *(Aet)*

MONTHEY 2 SERVETTE 4 *(Aet)*

DOMDIDIER 3 NYONNAIS 3 *(Aet)*
Domidier won on pens

BRUHL 0 YOUNG BOYS 0 *(Aet)*
Young Boys won on pens

FC BADEN v FC GRENCHEN – *postponed*

FC WIL v FC TUGGEN – *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 26

WEEKEND

SWISS CUP – 4TH RND

FC BADEN 0 FC GRENCHEN 2

FC WIL v FC TUGGEN – *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

WEEKEND

BASLE 1 (Walker 90)
GRASSHOPPER 0.
Att: 28,000.

LAUSANNE 3 (Akcel 24, Savovic 47, Sogbie 81)
SION 1 (Assis 87). Att: 6,200.

LUGANO 0
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 0.
Att: 3,500.

LUCERNE 1 (Guntensperger 61)
AARAU 0.
Att: 9,600.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **SUBIAT** (Grasshopper) 20
2 ..... **SOGBIE** (Lausanne) 14
3 ..... **GUNTENSPERGER** (Lucerne) 13
4 ..... **ASSIS** (FC Sion) 11
5 ..... **DETARI** (Neuchatel Xamax) 10

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	5	4	0	1	11	4	24
Lugano	4	1	2	1	4	5	17
Aarau	5	1	1	3	4	6	16
Sion	4	2	0	2	6	7	16
Basle	4	3	0	1	6	3	16
Lucerne	5	3	0	2	6	7	16
Neuchatel	4	1	1	2	2	4	15
Lausanne	5	1	0	4	6	9	14

EUROPEAN TABLES

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grevenmacher	18	13	3	2	31	11	29
Jeunesse Esch	18	11	5	2	51	15	27
Avenir Beggen	18	10	3	5	54	25	23
F91 Dudelange	18	10	2	6	37	29	22
Union	18	7	5	6	31	22	19
FC Wiltz	18	6	6	6	30	35	18
Aris Bonnevoie	18	6	5	7	32	31	17
Red Boys	18	5	5	8	36	45	15
CS Petange	18	5	5	8	19	34	15
Spora	18	4	6	8	27	31	14
Swift Hesperange	18	4	3	11	28	51	11
Wormeldange	18	1	4	13	11	57	6

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crusaders	25	19	5	1	52	18	62
Glenavon	25	14	5	6	60	33	47
Coleraine	25	10	12	3	47	33	42
Cliftonville	25	11	9	5	37	26	42
Portadown	24	12	3	5	48	33	38
Linfield	25	10	8	7	41	27	38
Distillery	24	11	5	8	41	37	38
Glentoran	25	10	7	8	43	35	37
Ards	24	11	4	9	45	41	37
Omagh Town	25	7	12	6	32	28	33
Bangor	25	6	12	7	35	33	30
Carrick	25	7	6	12	42	65	27
Ballymena	24	6	5	13	32	45	23
Newry	24	3	8	13	31	56	17
Ballyclare	25	4	4	17	28	57	16
Larne	24	2	3	19	16	63	9

REP OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derry City	29	14	8	7	39	28	50
Shelbourne	28	13	8	7	38	27	47
Dundalk	29	13	8	8	36	25	47
Shamrock Rov	30	13	8	9	42	32	47
St Patrick's	29	11	13	5	45	30	46
Bohemians	29	11	11	7	41	27	44
Cork City	28	13	4	11	48	34	43
Sligo Rovers	28	12	6	10	40	33	42
Galway Utd	28	10	78	10	36	44	38
Athlone Town	28	5	12	11	26	37	27
Cobh Ramblers	30	5	8	17	25	47	23
Monaghan Utd	30	4	4	22	17	69	16

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Omonia	27	18	6	3	66	20	60
Anorthosis	27	17	6	4	51	22	57
Salamina	27	16	3	8	49	38	51
Ethnikos	27	12	4	11	45	42	40
Paralimni	27	10	7	10	35	40	37
Ael	27	11	4	12	38	44	37
Olympiakos	27	11	4	12	34	51	37
Apollon	27	10	6	11	37	34	36
Apoel	26	9	6	11	30	35	33
Aek	26	8	4	14	31	41	28
Aris	27	6	7	14	33	40	25
Aradippou	27	3	3	21	32	74	12

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	27	23	3	1	64	14	70
Olympiakos	27	16	5	6	53	23	53
AEK Athens	27	13	10	4	52	28	49
Aris Salonika	27	15	3	9	35	28	48
PAOK	27	14	5	8	44	25	47
Heraklis	27	13	6	8	45	33	45
Apollon	27	14	3	10	46	31	45
OFI Crete	26	12	4	10	31	29	40
Skoda-Xanthi	27	11	7	9	37	40	40
Larissa	26	9	7	10	32	39	34
Athinaikos	27	8	9	10	23	22	33
Edessaikos	27	10	3	14	32	42	33
Panionios	27	9	5	13	23	41	32
Ionikos	27	7	5	15	21	43	26
Ethnikos	27	6	7	14	27	42	25
Doxa Drama	27	7	4	16	21	57	25
Levadiakos	27	5	4	18	19	49	19
Kavala	27	5	2	20	20	55	17

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac. Tel Aviv	22	14	3	5	46	23	45
Mac. Haifa	22	12	6	4	49	26	42
Hap. Petah Tikva	22	11	5	6	33	24	38
Hap. Beersheva	22	10	7	5	35	25	37
Hap. Tel Aviv	22	7	11	4	30	25	32
Betar Jerusalem	22	8	6	8	30	27	30
Bnei Yehuda	22	7	7	8	36	33	28
Hap. Haifa	22	7	6	9	34	34	27
Ironi Rishon	22	6	9	7	27	27	27
Hap. Beit She'an	22	6	9	7	23	35	27
Zafririm Holan	22	7	5	10	31	35	26
Mac. Petah Tikva	22	5	10	7	29	32	25
Betar Tel Aviv	22	7	3	12	27	43	24
Mac. Netanya	22	6	5	11	27	41	23
Mac. Herzliya	22	5	7	10	24	41	22
Ironi Ashdod	22	4	9	9	27	37	21

MALTA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernians	13	8	4	1	29	9	28
Sliema Wdrs	13	8	3	2	36	14	27
Valletta	13	8	3	2	32	10	27
Floriana	13	7	4	2	25	9	25
Hamrun Sptns	13	8	1	4	25	15	25
Zurrieq	13	4	2	7	11	27	14
Birkirkara	12	2	6	4	10	12	12
Naxxar Lions	12	2	3	7	10	24	9
Pieta Hotspurs	13	2	3	8	9	28	9
St George's	13	0	1	12	3	42	1

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	29	21	5	3	74	26	68
Trabzonspor	29	19	6	4	69	23	63
Galatasaray	29	18	4	7	62	32	58
Fenerbahce	29	16	6	7	67	33	54
Genclerbirligi	29	15	8	6	47	37	53
Bursaspor	29	11	10	8	39	32	43
Gaziantepspor	29	12	6	11	44	44	42
Altay	29	9	10	10	35	45	37
Samsunspor	29	9	9	11	45	51	36
Vanspor	29	10	6	13	30	36	36
Kayserispor	29	10	6	13	48	60	36
Kocaelispor	29	9	8	12	43	52	35
Ankaragucu	29	9	7	13	35	46	34
Denizlispor	29	8	8	13	38	46	32
Zeytinburnuspor	29	7	8	14	29	56	29
Antalyaspor	29	7	7	15	32	42	28
Petrolofisi	29	5	4	19	30	66	22
Adana Demirspor	29	3	6	20	22	62	15

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tirana	23	16	5	2	46	17	37
Albpetrol	23	11	5	7	29	29	27
Shkumbini	23	9	8	6	25	13	26
Partizani	23	10	6	7	28	21	26
Flamurtari	23	8	8	7	25	21	24
Vllaznia	23	10	4	9	24	20	24
Dinamo	23	7	8	8	26	23	22
Shqiponja	23	7	8	8	28	26	22
Beselidhja	23	8	6	9	21	23	22
Apolonia	23	8	6	9	23	27	22
Tomori	23	8	6	9	15	19	22
Teuta	23	8	5	10	22	22	21
Elbasani	23	7	7	9	17	18	21
Laci	23	9	2	12	19	32	20
Besa	23	8	2	13	21	32	18
Iliria	23	6	2	15	11	36	14

ARMENIA – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shizak Gyunri	28	24	4	0	83	19	52
Homenetmen	28	23	1	4	113	24	47
Azazat	28	21	5	2	109	21	47
Homenmen-FIMA	28	15	6	7	65	45	36
Banants	28	17	1	10	95	56	35
Cement	28	11	6	11	54	49	28
Kotajk	28	12	3	13	73	53	27
Aznavouz	28	11	3	14	43	72	25
Yerazank	28	9	5	14	29	50	23
Van	28	9	4	15	34	72	22
Zangezour	28	9	4	15	25	77	22
Nairit	28	7	6	15	22	43	20
Lori	28	5	6	17	22	65	16
BMA-Arai	28	5	5	18	38	85	15
Kanaz	28	1	3	24	15	89	5

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... A **AVETISIAN** (Homenetmen) 39
2 ..... H **BEZBERIAN** (Kotajk) 25
3 ..... A **PAHLEVANIAN** (Cement) 23

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	21	18	1	2	68	13	55
Lok. Sofia	21	17	2	2	45	21	53
Slavia	21	13	2	6	46	24	41
Botev	21	12	4	5	46	24	40
Spartak	21	9	6	6	22	18	33
CSKA	21	10	3	8	35	34	33
Etur	21	9	5	7	24	29	32
Neftohimik	21	10	0	11	31	35	30
Lok. Plovdiv	21	9	2	10	26	23	29
Lex	21	6	4	11	17	35	22
Shumen	20	5	6	9	18	37	21
Pirin	21	6	2	13	21	33	20
Montana	21	5	5	11	19	34	20
Dobrudja	20	5	3	12	13	29	18
Lokomotiv GO	21	5	2	14	19	38	17
Beroe	21	3	3	15	21	44	12

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia Prague	20	13	6	1	37	13	45
Sparta Prague	20	12	4	4	40	14	40
FC Boby Brno	20	10	6	4	34	18	36
Slovan Liberec	19	11	2	6	32	24	35
Viktoria Zizkov	20	10	3	7	45	28	33
FK Jablonec	20	9	3	8	29	22	30
Banik Ostrava	20	8	5	7	28	29	29
Ceske Budejovice	20	6	9	5	19	17	27
Hradec Kralove	20	7	3	10	19	30	24
Svit Zlin	20	7	3	10	17	29	24
Sigma Olomouc	20	6	5	9	20	23	23
Union Cheb	20	6	5	9	19	30	23
Petra Drnovice	20	7	2	11	20	33	23
Viktoria Plzen	20	7	2	11	17	30	23
Bohemians	19	5	3	11	22	33	18
Svarc Benesov	20	3	3	14	17	42	12

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	20	12	5	3	32	12	41
Osijek	20	11	7	2	47	17	40
Hajduk	20	10	7	3	39	19	37
Zagreb	20	10	7	3	26	18	37
Marsonia	20	9	6	5	26	17	33
Varteks	20	9	5	6	24	15	32
Cibalia	20	7	8	5	16	14	29
Sibenik	20	6	8	6	25	29	26
Inker	20	7	4	9	29	27	25
Primorac	20	6	7	7	19	31	25
Segesta	20	6	5	9	22	21	23
Rijeka	20	6	5	9	14	22	23
Istra	20	5	4	11	15	33	19
Neretva	20	4	6	10	14	29	18
Zadar	20	2	8	10	15	31	14
Belisce	20	3	2	15	19	47	11

RESULTS

European competitions latest . . . Cyprus hold Sweden in Limassol .

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia Warsaw	23	15	4	4	40	16	34
Widzew Lodz	23	12	9	2	35	19	33
GKS Katowice	23	10	9	4	30	16	29
Gornik Zabrze	23	8	11	4	34	24	27
Zaglebie Lubin	23	10	6	7	30	31	26
LKS Lodz	23	7	11	5	28	25	25
Lech Poznan	23	9	6	8	34	26	24
Olimpia Poznan	23	8	7	8	34	27	23
Pogon Szczecin	23	7	8	8	23	24	22
Stomil Olsztyn	23	4	13	6	27	26	21
Stal Mielec	23	5	11	7	31	32	21
Sokol Pniewy	23	5	11	7	22	28	21
Petrochemia	23	6	8	9	22	33	20
Hutnik Krakow	23	6	8	9	23	36	20
R. Czestochowa	23	5	9	9	24	34	19
Ruch Chorzow	23	3	12	8	23	33	18
Stal Stalowa	23	6	6	11	20	33	18
Warta Poznan	23	5	5	13	19	46	15

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	23	15	6	2	44	14	51
Univ. Craiova	23	13	4	6	50	23	43
Dinamo	23	12	3	8	40	28	39
Rapid	23	12	3	8	35	26	39
Petrolul Ploiesti	23	11	5	7	34	26	38
FC National	23	11	4	8	47	38	37
Ceahlaul	23	10	5	8	34	33	35
Arges Pitesti	23	11	2	10	27	36	35
Univ. Cluj	23	10	4	9	28	27	34
Gloria Bistrita	23	10	3	10	43	38	33
FC Farul	23	9	5	9	30	34	32
FC Inter Sibiu	23	10	2	11	32	37	32
Otelul Galati	23	8	7	8	34	35	31
FC Brasov	23	5	8	10	22	34	23
Electro. Craiova	23	6	3	14	19	30	21
UT Arad	23	4	8	11	16	40	20
FC Maramures	23	4	6	13	24	43	18
Sportul Student	23	3	8	12	16	31	17

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA Moscow	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Moscow Dyn	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Moscow Sptk	2	1	1	0	7	3	4
Uralmash	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
Dyn-Gazovik	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Sptk Vladikavkaz	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Lok. Moscow	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Moscow Torpedo	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Rostselmash	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Chernomorets	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
KamAZ	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Lok. NN	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Krylya Sovetov	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Zhemchuzhina	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Tekstilshchik	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Rotor Volgograd	1	0	1	1	1	6	1

● *If more than one team has the same number of points, precedence is given to the one with most wins. If more than one team has the same number of wins and points, precedence goes to the side with the most successful record against the others*

SLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan	20	14	5	1	42	14	47
FC Kosice	20	10	5	5	37	23	35
Spartak Trnava	20	10	4	6	32	20	34
Dukla Bystrica	20	9	5	6	33	19	32
Dac Dunajska	20	8	5	7	25	22	29
Inter	20	7	5	8	24	31	26
Lok Kosice	20	8	2	10	32	41	26
Bardejov	20	7	4	9	25	25	25
MFK Prievidza	20	7	4	9	19	33	25
Tatran Presov	20	6	6	8	24	31	24
FC Chemlon	20	4	6	10	18	36	18
SK Zilina	20	3	3	14	21	37	12

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kiev Dynamo	21	15	5	1	50	19	50
Shakhtyor	21	13	4	4	38	16	43
Chornomorets	21	12	4	5	34	20	40
Dnipro	21	12	4	5	34	25	40
Tavria	21	11	4	6	41	23	37
Torpedo	21	11	1	9	31	25	34
Kremin	21	10	3	8	30	27	33
Kryvbas	21	8	6	7	17	15	30
Karpaty	21	7	6	8	20	23	27
Prykarpattya	21	7	5	9	22	30	26
Nyva Ternopil	21	7	4	10	28	24	25
Veres	21	7	4	10	22	36	25
Nyva Vinnytsya	21	7	3	11	21	25	24
Volyn	21	6	2	13	17	36	20
SK Mykolayiv	21	6	2	13	14	37	20
Temp	21	5	4	12	19	26	19
Zorya	21	5	4	12	24	41	19
Metalurg	21	4	7	10	20	34	19

YUGOSLAVIA
Division A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	9	7	1	1	27	7	26
Vojvodina	9	5	1	3	14	11	24
Partizan	9	6	2	1	21	10	24
Becej	9	4	2	3	7	13	18
OFK Beograd	9	4	2	3	10	10	17
Borac	9	2	3	4	9	14	14
Rad	9	1	4	4	9	15	14
Zemun	9	2	2	5	8	11	13
Hajduk	9	2	2	5	10	15	11
Radnicki (NB)	9	2	1	6	11	20	11

Division B

Buducnost	9	4	2	3	13	13	18
Radnicki (N)	9	4	1	4	15	7	17
Napredak	9	5	1	3	13	11	16
Loznica	9	4	1	4	18	16	13
Proleter	9	4	1	4	16	17	13
Rudar	9	3	3	3	10	11	12
Sloboda	9	4	2	3	11	14	12
Obilic	9	2	3	4	12	16	12
Sutjeska	9	4	1	4	13	11	10
Spartak	9	3	1	5	4	9	10

CHAMPIONS CUP

QUARTER-FINALS – 2ND LEG
(March 15)

AJAX 3 (Kanu 39, F de Boer 44, 67)
HAJDUK SPLIT 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom).
Ajax won 3-0 on agg
Ajax: Van der Sar – Blind, Rijkaard, F de Boer, Reiziger, Litmanen, R de Boer, Seedorf (Bogarde 81), Kanu (Kluivert 72), George, Overmars.
Hajduk: Gabric – Person, Prazenica, Hibic, Stimac, Vuica, Jurcec, Pralija, Ercec (Vulic 49), Asanovic, Mestrovic.

BENFICA 0
MILAN 0
Att: 75,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)
Milan won 2-0 on agg
Benfica: Preud'homme – Veloso, Dimas, Pereira, William (Helder 88), Paulo Bento, Vitor Paneira, Joao Vieira Pinto, Caniggia, Edilson (Isaias 60), Nelo.
Milan: Rossi – Panucci, Maldini, Donadoni, Galli, Baresi (Costacurta 88), Eranio, Desailly, Boban, Savicevic, Simone (Stroppa 90).

IFK GOTHENBURG 2 (Lilienberg 79, Martinsson 90)
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Zickler 64, Nerlinger 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,525. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco).
Agg: 2-2, Bayern won on away goals
IFK: Ravelli – Karnark, M Johansson, Bjorklund, M Nilsson (Lilienberg 77), Martinsson, Rehn, Lindqvist, Blomqvist, Erlingmark, Pettersson (Wahlstedt 69).
Bayern: Scheuer* – Helmer, Kreuzer, Babbel, Frey, Scholl, Nerlinger, Ziege, Zickler (Kuffour 82), Witeczek (Schupp 62), Kostadinov (Gospodarek 22).
* = *Scheuer sent off, 20 mins*

PARIS SG 2 (Rai 72, Guerin 83)
BARCELONA 1 (Bakero 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,574. **Ref:** Grabher (Aut).
Paris SG won 3-2 on agg
Paris SG: Lama – Cobos, Colleter, Kombouare, Rai, Le Guen, Bravo, Guerin, Weah, Valdo, Ginola.
Barcelona: Busquets – Ferrer, Sergi, Koeman, Nadal, Bakero, Ivan, Stoichkov, Eusebio, Hagi (Abelardo 73), Beguirstain (Jose Mari 60).

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEG
(April 5)

BAYERN MUNICH 0
AJAX 0
Att: 60,000. **Ref:** Ahmet Cakar (Tur).
Bayern: Gospodarek – Helmer (Grimm 89), Kuffour, Babbel, Hamann, Schupp, Scholl, Nerlinger, Ziege, Zickler, Sutter.
Ajax: Van der Sar – Reizinger, Blind, Rijkaard, F de Boer, R de Boer (Bogarde 75), Litmanen, Seedorf, George, Kanu (Kluivert 63), Overmars.

PARIS SG 0
MILAN 1 (Boban 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swi).
Paris SG: Lama – Llacer, Ricardo, Roche, Cobos, Rai, Guerin, Le Guen, Bravo, Weah, Ginola.
Milan: Rossi – Panucci, Maldini, Albertini, Costacurta, Baresi, Eranio, Desailly, Boban, Savicevic, Simone (Massaro 84).

CUP-WINNERS CUP

QUARTER-FINALS – 2ND LEG
(March 16 unless stated)

AUXERRE 0
ARSENAL 1 (Wright 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Zhuk (Bye).
Arsenal won 2-1 on agg
Auxerre: Cool – Goma, Silvestre, Verlaat, Mahe, Rabarivony (Cocard 70), Saib, Martins, Lamouchi, Laslandes, Vahirua (Baticle 77).
Arsenal: Seaman – Dixon, Winterburn, Schwarz, Bould, Adams, Wright, Merson, Keown, Hartson (Morrow 78), Parlour.

CHELSEA 2 (Stein 16, Furlong 37)
CLUB BRUGGE 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 28,661 *(March 14)*.
Ref: Pairetto (Ita).
Chelsea won 2-1 on agg
Chelsea: Hitchcock – Clarke, Minto (Hall 46), Spackman, Johnsen, Sinclair, Stein, Burley, Furlong, Peacock, Rocastle (Lee 73).
Club Brugge: Verlinden (Belpaire 77); Medved (Vermant 73), Van der Elst, Verheyen, Borkelmans, Buelinckx, Okon, De Brul, Staelens, Eykelkamp, Renier.

FC PORTO 0
SAMPDORIA 1 (Mancini 48)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-1. **Att:** 49,000.
Ref: Batta (Fra).
Agg: 1-1, Sampdoria won 5-3 on pens after extra time
FC Porto: Baia – J Pinto, Paulo Santos, Aloisio, Nascimento, Costa, Secretario, Rui Barros, Yuran, Latapy, Domingos.
Sampdoria: Zenga – Serena, Sacchetti, Invernizzi, Rossi, Mihalovic, Lombardo, Salsano, Platt*, Mancini, Evani.
* = *Platt sent off, 118min*

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Pardeza 68, Esnaider 72)
FEYENOORD 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,800. **Ref:** Merk (Ger).
Real Zaragoza won 2-1 on agg
Zaragoza: Juanmi – Belsue, Nayim, Caceres, Sanjuan, Aguado, Pardeza, Aragon, Esnaider, Higuera (Celada 76), Poyet.
Feyenoord: De Goey – Van Gobbel, Refos, Frasser, Maas, Bosz*, Scholten, Kiprich**, Larsson, Trustfull, Blinker (Obiku 76).
* = *Bosz sent off, 83min*
** = *Kiprich sent off, 88min*

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEG
(April 6)

ARSENAL 3 (Bould 34, 37, Wright 69)
SAMPDORIA 2 (Jugovic 51, 78)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 38,089. **Ref:** Uilenberg (Hol)
Arsenal: Seaman – Dixon, Winterburn, Schwarz, Bould, Adams, Hillier, Wright (Kiwomya 85), Hartson, Merson (Morrow 85), Parlour.
Sampdoria: Zenga – Mannini, Serena, Invernizzi (Maspero 73), Sacchetti, Rossi, Lombardo, Jugovic, Salsano, Mancini, Evani.

REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Pardeza 8, Esnaider 25, 58)
CHELSEA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe).
Zaragoza: Juanmi – Belsue, Solana, Caceres, Nayim, Aguardo, Pardeza (Celada 64), Aragon (Sanjuan 80), Esnaider, Higuera, Poyet.
Chelsea: Hitchcock – Clarke, Minto, Spackman, Johnsen, Sinclair, Spencer (Stein 59), Myers, Furlong, Peacock, Rocastle (Hoddle 62).

UEFA CUP

QUARTER-FINALS – 2ND LEG
(March 14)

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Chapuisat 11 pen, Riedle 90)
LAZIO 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,400. **Ref:** Vagner (Hun)
Dortmund won 2-1 on agg
Dortmund: Klos – Sammer, Schmidt, Julio Cesar, Freund, Tretschok, Reuter, Kree, Moller (Ricken 90), Riedle, Chapuisat.
Lazio: Marchegiani – Negro, Bergodi, Cravero, Chamot*, Fuser, Di Matteo, Winter, Rambaudi, Casiraghi, Boksic.
* = *Chamot sent off, 89min*

JUVENTUS 3 (Conte 77, Ravanelli 87, Del Piero 90)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** D Vega (Spa).
Juventus won 4-1 on agg
Juventus: Peruzzi – Ferrara, Porrini, Fusi (Torricelli 46), Kohler, Deschamps, Marocchi (Jarni 85), Conte, Del Piero, Baggio, Ravanelli.
Eintracht: Kopke – Bindewald, Legat, Roth, Binz, Falkenmayer, Flick (Becker 75), Dickhaut, Furtok, Weber, Okocha (Sobotzik 83).

NANTES 0
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0
Att: 34,000. **Ref:** Ceccarini (Ita).
Leverkusen won 5-1 on agg
Nantes: Casagrande (Garcia 46) – Le Dizet, Pignol, Capron, Karembeu, Decroix, Makelele, Garcion (Siasia 75), Ouedec, N'Doram, Loko.
Leverkusen: Vollborn – Happe, Melzig, Hapal, Lupescu (Dooley 84), Scholz, Paulo Sergio, Schuster, Kirsten (Thom 60), Lehnhoff, Munch.

OB ODENSE 0
PARMA 0
Att: 13,000. **Ref:** Uzunov (Bul).
Parma won 1-0 on agg
OB: Hogh – J Hansen, M Hemmingsen, Sangild – Pedersen (D Nielsen 67), Bisgaard, C Hemmingsen, Melvang, Schjoenberg – Thorup, O Hansen.
Parma: Bucci – Bennarivo, Di Chiara, Minotti, Apollono, Fernando Couto, Pin, Crippa, Sensini, Branca (Baggio 73), Zola

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEG
(April 4)

LEVERKUSEN 1 (Paulo Sergio 20)
PARMA 2 (D Baggio 48, Asprilla 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,500. **Ref:** D Vega (Spa).
Leverkusen: Vollborn – Lupescu, Melzig, Dooley, Happe, Scholz, Lehnhoff (Voller 63), Schuster, Hapal, Sergio (Thom 42), Kirsten.
Parma: Bucci – Benarrivo, Di Chiara, Minotti, Susic, Couto, Sensini (Fiore 45), Pin, D. Baggio, Zola, Asprilla.

JUVENTUS 2 (R Baggio 27 pen, Kohler 88)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Reuter 8, Moller 71)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 83,000 *(in Milan)*.
Ref: Batta (Fra)
Juventus: Peruzzi – Ferrara, Carrera, Kohler, Torricelli*, Paulo Sousa, Marocchi (Del Piero 75th), Deschamps, Vialli (Di Livio 80), R Baggio, Ravanelli.
* = *Torricelli sent off, 90min*
Dortmund: Klos – K Reinhardt, Freund, Kree, Julio Cesar (Kurz 85), Sammer, Reuter, Zorc, Ricken (Tanko 70), Moller, Riedle.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Feb 15 = Limassol – friendly
CYPRUS 3 (Gogic 16, Egomitis 85, Larku 87)
ESTONIA 1 (Reim 76 pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Ioannou (Cyp)
Cyprus: Petridis (Panayiotou 69) – Kalotheou, Pittas (Pefkos 46), G Christodolou (M Christodolou 46), M Charalambous – Z Charalambous (Egomitis 46), P Andreou (A Andreou 46), Larku – Gogic (Sotiriou 46), Fasuliotis, Agathokleous.
Estonia: Tohver – R Kallaste, T Kallaste, Lemsalu, Lindmaa (Klavan 75) – Linnumae, Alonen, Kristal, Rajala – Kirs, Reim.

Feb.15 = Mendoza (Arg) – friendly
ARGENTINA 4 (Gallardo 2 pens, Rambert 2)
BULGARIA 1 (Sirakov)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Eduardo Gamboa (Chi).
Att: 46,500.
Argentina: Bossio, Zanetti, Ayala, Rotchen, Arruabarrena (Sorin), Monserrat, Jimenez, Bassedas, Gallardo (Garnero), Ortega (Barros Schelotto), Rambert (Crespo).
Bulgaria: Popov (Ganthev), S. Angelov, Lankov, Ivanov, Zasirov, Kiliakov, Jankov (Iordanov), D. Angelov, Guentchev (Enguivarov), Sirakov, Jocov (Mihtarsky).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Feb.22 = Fortaleza (Brazil) – friendly
BRAZIL 5 (Souza, Juninho, Tulio, Marcio Santos, Bebeto)
SLOVAKIA 0
HT: 1-0.
Brazil: Taffarel, Cafu, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Branco, Dunga, Lenadro, Souza, Juninho, Bebeto, Savio.
Slovakia: Molnar, Stupala, Zeman, Titel, Tomasek, Kinder, Zvara, Weiss, Simon, Luhovy, Ujaky.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Mar 1 = Casablanca – friendly
MOROCCO 2 (Derrouiche 5, 26)
SENEGAL 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Mar 2 = Mar del Plata, Arg – Mercosur Tournament
BRAZIL 2 (Carlinhos, Silvinho)
URUGUAY 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg).
Brazil: Adilson – Ronaldo, Alberto, Carlinhos, Bordon, Ricardo, Sandro, Nene, Cairo (Fabiano), Fabrico (Carlos), Silvinho.
Uruguay: Flores – Lopez, Gutierrez, Silva, Adinolfi, Elias, Abeijon, Parodi (Canobbio), Tejera, Alvez (Recoba), O'Neill (Nunez).

Mar 2 = Mar del Plata – Mercosur tmt
ARGENTINA 3 (Escudero, Ayala, Ortega)
PARAGUAY 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Carlos Pimental (Bra)
Argentina: Bossio – Zanetti, Ayala, Paz, Arruabarrena, Escudero (Rotchen), Jimenez (Hussain), Bassedas, Gallardo, Ortega, Rambert (Crespo).
Paraguay: Aceval – Villalba, Peralta, Sarabia, Ramirez, Oryiz, Enciso (Britez), Franco, Paniagua (Cabrera), Perez (Gonzalez), Gomez (Blanco).
NOTE: *The final, Argentina v Brazil, was postponed indefinitely because of a waterlogged pitch.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Mar 8 = Budapest/Vasas – friendly
HUNGARY 3 (Hamar 46, 53, Csertoi 65)
LATVIA 1 (Zemlinsky 68 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000.
Ref: Rabrehovic (Yug).
Hungary: Petry (Hajdu 86) – Lorincz, Lipcsei (Kozma 88), Kovacs (Marton 46) – Mracsko, Halmai (Hamar 46), Salloi (Sandor 84), Illes, Urban (Banfi 64) – Csertoi, Klausz (Wukovics 75).
Latvia: Karavayev – Sprogis, Trotsky, Shevlyakov – Lobanyov, Mikutsky, Zemlinsky, Shtolcers, Blagonadezhdin – Teplov (Tarasov 86), Boulders (Yelisdeyev 75)

Mar 8 = Limassol – friendly
CYPRUS 3 (Agathokleous 2, Hadjilukas 5, Egomitis 85)
SWEDEN 3 (Ekstrom 17, K Andersson 45, Alexandersson 46)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 2,000.
Ref: Papaioannou (Cyp)
Cyprus: Panayiotou (Petridis 46) – Larku (Fasuliotis 65), Pittas (Lakotheou 65), Kosta, Ioannou – Konstantinou (Christodolou 65), S Andreou (P Andreou 65), Egomitis, Sotiriou – Agathokleous (Gogic 50), Hadjilukas (Charalambous 65).
Sweden: Ravelli (Eriksson 46) – R Nilsson, Johansson, Kamark, Ljung – Mild (Alexandersson 46), Rehn (Erlingmark 82), Blomqvist (M Nilsson 66 – Thern, K Andersson, Ekstrom.

Mar 8 = Athens – friendly
GREECE 1 (Vrizas 49)
SWITZERLAND 1 (Fernandez 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Greece: Karkamanis – Apostolakis, Vlahios (Kalitzakis 46), Zagorakis (Pursanidis 46), Kassapis – Dabizas, Tsaluhidis, Tursunidis (Kostis 46), Tsartas (Nioplias 46) – Frantzeskos (Vrizas 46), Mahlas (Karasavides 74).
Switzerland: Zuberbuhler – Gamperle, Geiger, Herr, W Fernandez – Ohrel (J Vogel 46), Henchoz, Bickel – Bonvin, Subiat, Chapuisat (M Koller 46).

Mar 8 = Istanbul – friendly
TURKEY 2 (Aykut 73, Suat 90)
ISRAEL 1 (R Harazi 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Cucirigni (Ita)
Turkey: Sanver (Hasan 46) – Recep, Gokhan (Ercan 64), Alpay – Ilker (Aykut 61), Tugay, Oguz (Mehmet 46), Suat, Abdullah (Multu 84) – Hakan Sukur, Ertegrul (Hami 46).
Israel: Ginzburg (R Cohen 46) – A Harazi (Amsalem 89), Shelah, Klinger, Glam – Halfon (Zanon 12), Hazan, Berkowitz, Banin, R Levi – R Harazi.

Mar 8 = Brno – friendly
CZECH REPUBLIC 4 (Berger 7, 45, Samec 56, 88)
FINLAND 1 (Hjelm 71)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Benedik (Slova)
Czech Rep: Kouba – Repka, Suchoparek, Gabriel – Poborsky (Galasek 83), Nemecek, Hapal (Smejkal 46), Berger, Bittengel (Wagner 71) – Siegl (Bilek 46), Samec.
Finland: Laukkanen – Holmgren, Kanerva, Eriksson – Suominen, Myyry, Ukkonen, Hjelm, Lindberg – Sumiala (Ruhanen 79), Rajamaki (Nieminen 62).

Mar 8 = Bratislava – friendly
SLOVAKIA 2 (Dubovsky 29, 69)
RUSSIA 1 (Karpin 76)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,200. **Ref:** Weber (Ger)
Slovakia: Vencel – Glonek, Kozal, Titel, Stupala, Praezenica – Kristofik (Simon 89), Weiss (Luhovy 76), Tomaschek – Penksa, Dubovsky.
Russia: Cherchesov – Nikiforov, Gurlukovich, Rakimov (Kovtoun 75), Afanasiev – Karpin, Kanchelskis, Shalimov, Tsimbalar (Khlestov 30) – Radchenko (Mostovoi 46), Pisarev (Beschastnikh 46).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Mar 15 = Osrtowiec Swietokrzyski – friendly

Turkey beat Sweden 2-1 in Euro '96 qualifier . . . Yugoslavia beat Uruguay in Belgrade . . .

POLAND 4 (Czereszewski 2, Waldoch 36, Wieszczycki 45, Jaskulski 80)
LITHUANIA 1 (Pocius 48)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Ihring (Cze).
Poland: Wozniak – Jaskulski (Wojtala 85), M Swierczewski, Waldoch – P Swierczewski (Bukalski 68), Czereszewski, Nowak, Wieszewski (Dembinski 72), Kozminski – Kosecki, Jukskowiak.
Lithuania: Martinkenas – Zlukas, Valnoras, Baltuskinas, Tereskinas – Valneckis (Apanavicius 68), Stumbrys, Vencevicius (Zuta 46), Gudaitis – Skarbalius (Poclus 46), Fridrikas (Sulka 17).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Mar 22 = Medellin – **friendly**
COLOMBIA 2 (Cabrera 20, Bermudez 85)
URUGUAY 1 (Carobbio 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Russi (Col)
Colombia: Higuita – Cabrera, Fernandez, Mancilanda 46, Bermudez, Botero – Gaviria, Alvarez, Pareja (Serna 46), Pacheco – Gomez, Arango (Cano 46).
Uruguay: Rodriguez – Mendez, Lopez, Gutierrez, T Silva (Adinolfi 46) – Poyet (Tejera 46), Abejion, Elias, M Otero (O Otero 70) – D Silva, Carobbio.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Mar 25 = Zagreb – **Euro Chp gp 4**
CROATIA 4 (Boban 10, Suker 21, 76, Prosinecki 70)
UKRAINE 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.
Croatia: Ladic – Jurcevic, Jarni, Pavicic, Jerkan, Bilic, Asanovic, Prosinecki, Boksic (Turkovic 60), Boban, Suker.
Ukraine: Tlepushkin – Luzhny, Telestenko, Mikhailenko, Shmatovalenko, Kovalets, Pochlebaiev, Leonenko, Mikhailchenko, Kosovski.

Mar 25 = Salerno – Euro Chp gp 4
ITALY 4 (Zola 45, 65, Albertini 58, Ravanelli 82)
ESTONIA 1 (Reim 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Philippi (Lux)
Italy: Peruzzi – Negro, Carbonari, Albertini, Maldini, Minotti, Eranio (Lombardo 55), D Baggio, Del Piero (Berti 70), Zola, Ravanelli.
Estonia: Poom – Lemsalu, R Kallaste, T Kallaste, Leli (Pari 73), Olesk, Olumets, Alonen, Linnumae, Krom (Reim 67), Kristal.

Mar 25 = Dallas – **friendly**
UNITED STATES 2 (Kerr 8, Stewart 67)
URUGUAY 2 (O. Otero 75, Poyet 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,242. **Ref:** Marrufo (Mex)
Match abandoned, severe rain, 84min
US: Sommer – Agoos, Caligiuri, Lalas, Lozzano (Ibsen 46), Burns, Deering (Razov 46), Jones, Kerr, Kirovski, Stewart.
Uruguay: Ferro – D Lopez, A Gutierrez, G Mendez, Elias, Adinolfi, Omar Otero, Marcelo Otero (Abeijon 62), Canobbio, Tejera (Dario Silva 62), Poyet.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Mar 29 = Tirana – Euro Chp gp 7
ALBANIA 3 (Kushta 32, 79, Kacaj 42)
MOLDOVA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Meier (Sw)
Albania: Strakosha (Nallbani 80) – Malko, Shulku, Xhumba (Fortuzi 66), Vata, Kacaj, Kushta, Bellaj, Abazi, Prekli, Demollari.
Moldova: Koshelev – Seku, Belous, Pogorelov, Gaidamashchuk (A Stroyenko 66), S Stroyenko, Oprea, Curtianu (Caras 72), Nani, Spiridon, Kleshchenko.

Mar 29 = Salzburg – Euro Chp gp 6
AUSTRIA 5 (Herzog 17, 59, Pfeifenberger 40, Polster 70 pen, 90)
LATVIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Agius (Mal)
Austria: Konrad – Feiersinger, Kogler, Fuerstaller, Kuhbauer, Artner (Huetter 76), Pfeifenberger, Herzog, Marasek, Ogris (Ramush 46), Polster.
Latvia: Laizans – Sevljakovs, Sprogis, Lobanjovs, Troickis, Zemlinskijs (Mikuckiss 66), Astafjevs, Monjaks, Blagonadexdins, Teplovs, Babichevs (Stolcers 74).

Mar 29 = Goiana – **friendly**
BRAZIL 1 (Tulio 45 pen)
HONDURAS 1 (Carson 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000.
Brazil: Danriei – Bruno Carvalho, Gelson, Argel, Jefferson (Sergio Manoel), Ze Elias, Leandro, Juninho (Amoroso), Souza (Savio), Tulio, Viola.
Honduras: Wilmer Cruz – Sierra, Lagos, Arzu, Ulloa, Castro, Reyes, Romero (Avila), Bonilla, Guevara, Presley Carson (Giovane Avila).

Mar 29 = Sofia – Euro Chp gp 7
BULGARIA 3 (Balakov 37, Penev 70, 82)
WALES 1 (Saunders 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** M Piraux (Bel)
Bulgaria: Mikhailov – Kremenliev, Ivanov, Tzvetanov (Kiriakov 85), Hubchev, Yankov, Kostadinov, Stoichkov, Penev, Lechkov, Balakov.
Wales: Southall – Phillips, Bowen, Jones (Cornforth 78), Melville, Coleman, Horne, Hartson, Saunders, Speed, Giggs.

Mar 29 = Limassol – Euro Chp gp 2
CYPRUS 1 (Agathocleous 45)
DENMARK 1 (Schjonberg 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Shorte (RI)
Cyprus: N Panayiotou – Costa, Pittas, D Ioannou, Charalambous, Christodoulou, Engomitis, Andreou, Gogoc, Hadjilucas (C Constantinou 46), Agathocleous.
Denmark: Schmeichel – Laursen, Pieper, Friis-Hansen (Helveg 46), Schjonberg, J Hogh, Steen Nielsen, P Nielsen, Rasmussen, M Laudrup, B Laudrup.

Mar 29 = Ostrava – Euro Chp gp 5
CZECH REPUBLIC 4 (Kadlec 5, Berger 18, 63, Kuka 69)
BYELORUSSIA 2 (Gerasimec 44 pen, Gurinovich 88)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 5,549. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Czech Rep: Srnicek – Kadlec, Repka, Hapal, Latal, Nemecek, Berger, Frydek (Bilek 86), Smejkal, P Kuka, Siegl (Samec 89)
Byelorussia: Santalosov – Gurenko, Sosnickij, Jusipec, Jakimovic (Rodnionok 77), Tajkov, Zigmatovic, Gurinovic, Metlicki, Zuravel (Kashentsev 81), Gerasimec.

Mar 29 = Wembley – **friendly**
ENGLAND 0
URUGUAY 0
Att: 34,894. **Ref:** Krug (Ger).
England: Flowers – Jones, Adams, Pallister, Le Saux (McManaman 46), Anderton, Venison, Platt, Barnes, Beardsley (Barmby 65), Sheringham (Cole 71).
Uruguay: Ferro – Lopez, Aguirregaray, A Gutierrez, Montero – Dorta, Cedres, Bengoechea, Poyet – Francescoli (D Silva, 55), Fonseca.

Mar 29 = Tbilisi – Euro Chp gp 7
GEORGIA 0
GERMANY 2 (Klinsmann 24, 45)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 75,000.
Ref: Bodenham (Eng).
Georgia: Devadse – Tskhadadse, Ravshvili, Schella, Chikhradze, Gogichaisvili, Kudinov, Kinkladze, Dzhamarauli (Gogrichiani 62), R Arveladze (Kavelashvili 78), S Arveladze.
Germany: Kopke – Helmer, Kohler, Babbel, Reuter, Basler, Eilts, Moller, Weber (Freund 46), Klinsmann, Herrlich.

Mar 29 = Rotterdam – Euro Chp gp 5
HOLLAND 4 (Seedorf 38, Bergkamp 75 pen, Winter 78, Kluivert 84)
MALTA 0
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Orrason (Ice)
Holland: De Goey – Valckx, Blind, Jonk, F de Boer, Winter, Overmars, Seedorf, R de Boer (Kluivert 32), Bergkamp, Roy (Van de Luer 59).
Malta: Cluett – S Vella (Gregory 90), Buhagiar, Galea, Woods, J Camilleri, Busuttil (Agius 88), Saliba, Sant Fournier, Laferla, Edwin Camilleri.

Mar 29 = Budapest – Euro Chp gp 3
HUNGARY 2 (Kiprich 51, Illes 70)
SWITZERLAND 2 (Subiat 72, 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Wieser (Aut)
Hungary: Petry – Lorincz, E Kovacs, Meszoly, Mracsko, Halmai, Salloi, Illes, Kozma, Kiprich (Marton 71), Vincze (Klausz 72).
Switzerland: Pascolo – Hottiger, Herr, Geiger, Fernandez, Koller, Ohrel, Sforza, A Sutter, Bickel (Grassi 64), Subiat (Henchoz 90).

Mar 29 = Ramat Gan – Euro Chp gp 1
ISRAEL 0
FRANCE 0
Att: 43,000. **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco)
Israel: Ginsburg – Halfon, Glam, Hazan, A Harazi, Klinger, Banin, Revivo, Berkowitz (Zohar 64), R Harazi, Rosenthal.
France: Lama – Angloma, Di Meco, Roche, Blanc, Le Guen, Loko, Desailly, Ouedec (Ginola 66), Martins (Djorkaeff 78), Pedros.

Mar 29 = Vilnius – Euro Chp gp 4
LITHUANIA 0
CROATIA 0
Att: 9,000. **Ref:** Burge (Wal).
Lithuania: Stauce – Ivanauskas, Narbekovas (Pocius 24), Zdancius (Zhuta 69), Skarbalius, Suika, Sukristovas, Stonkus, Vainoras, Gudaitis, Ziukas.
Croatia: Ladic – Brajkovic, Jarni, Stimac, Pavlinovic (Mladenovic 46), Bilic, Asanovic, Prosinecki, Suker, Soldo, Boksic.

Mar 29 = Luxembourg – Euro Chp gp 5
LUXEMBOURG 0
NORWAY 2 (Leonhardsen 35, Aase 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,031. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
Luxembourg: Rohmann – Vanek, Weis, Ferron, Strasser, Birssens, Cardoni (Schneider 82), Saibene (Feyder 78), Deville, Groff, Langers.
Norway: Thorstvedt – Haaland, Berg, Johnsen, Inge Bjornebye – Flo (Aase 46), Bohinen, Rekdal – Leonhardsen, J I Jakobsen, Fjortoft.

Mar 29 = Los Angeles – **friendly**
MEXICO 1 (Luis Garcia 34)
CHILE 2 (Salas 14, Zamorano 78)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 59,188.
Mexico: Campos (Pineda 46) – Suarez, Delgado, Ambriz, Ramirez (Ruiz 65), Bernal, Garcia Aspe, Rodriguez, Del Olmo, Alves (Gallaga 46), Garcia.
Chile: Varas – Mendoza, Castaneda (Rojas 46), Margas (Acuna 57), Vilches, Guevara (Vega 46), Valencia, Parraguez, Zamorano (MacNiven 77), Sierra, Salas.

Mar 29 = Dublin – Euro Chp gp 6
REP. OF IRELAND 1 (Quinn 47)
NORTHERN IRELAND 1 (Dowie 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,200. **Ref:** V d Ende (Hol)
Rep. of Ireland: A Kelly – G Kelly, Irwin, Babb, McGrath, Keane, Townsend, D Kelly (McAteer 74), Quinn (Cascarino 81), Sheridan, Staunton.
N Ireland: Fettis – Patterson, Worthington, Taggart, McDonald, Morrow, Gillespie, Magilton, Dowie, Hill, Hughes.

Mar 29 = Bucharest – Euro Chp gp 1
ROMANIA 2 (Raducioiu 44, Wandzik og 55)
POLAND 1 (Juskowiak 42 pen)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,500.
Ref: Rothlisberger (Swi)
Romania: Stelea – Petrescu, Prodan, Belodedic, Selymes, Popescu, Lacatus (Lupu 46), Dumitrescu, Raducioiu, Hagi (Vladoiu 87), Munteanu.
Poland: Wandzik – Jaskulski*, M Swierczewski, Waldoch, P Swierczewski, Nowak (Wieszczyncki 64), Czereszewski (Sokolwski 75), Warzycha, Baluszyoski, Juskowiak, Kosecki.
** = Jaskulski sent off, 76min*

Mar 29 = Moscow – Euro Chp gp 8
RUSSIA 0
SCOTLAND 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,500. **Ref:** H Strampe (Ger)
Russia: Kharin – Khlestov, Nikiforov, Kovtun, Shalimov (Radimov 69), Karpin, Onopko, Kanchelskis, Dobrovolski, Radchenko (Pisarev 56), Kiriakov.
Scotland: Leighton, McKimmie, Boyd, McLaren, Hendry, Calderwood, Jackson (Shearer 77), McStay, McGinlay (McKinley 83), McAllister, Collins.

Mar 29 = San Marino – Euro Chp gp 8
SAN MARINO 0
FINLAND 2 (Litmanen 45, Sumiala 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 824. **Ref:** Suheli (Isr)
San Marino: Benedettini – Gobbi, Valentini, Guerra, Gennari – Mazza (Matteoni 70), Manzaroli, Francini, Binini – Montagna (Gualieri 75), Mularoni.
Finland: Laukkanen – Makela (Hyppia 74), Ukkonen, Helin, Lindberg – Erikson, Sumiala, Myyry, Litmanen – Hjelm, Jarvinen (Rajamaki 69).

Mar 29 = Kosice – Euro Chp gp 1
SLOVAKIA 4 (Tittel 35, Timko 40, 52, Dubovsky 45 pen)
AZERBAIJAN 1 (Suleimanov 80 pen)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 12,450. **Ref:** Nikakis (Gre)
Slovakia: Molnar – Stupala, Zeman, Gionek, Kindel, Tittel, Penksa, Kristofik, Timko, Dubovsky, Moravcik (Prazenica 75)
Azerbaijan: Gasanov – Asadov, Vahabzade, Dzabarov, Aliev (Kapirov 67), Abushev, Guseinov, Diniev, Kasumov (Alekberov 60), Suleimanov, Agaev.

Mar 29 = Maribor – Euro Chp gp 4
SLOVENIA 3 (Zahvic 40, Gliha 53, Kokol 90)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Mendes (Por)
Slovenia: Boskovic – Galic, Milanic, Germanis (Skaper 70), Englaro – Ceh, Novak, Zahovic (Kokol 68), Zidan – Florjancic, Gliha.
Estonia: Poom – R Kallaste, T Kallaste, Olesk, Arbeiter (Leile 77) – Olumets, Linnumae, Lindmaa, Lepik – Reim, Kirs.

Mar 29 = Seville – Euro Chp gp 2
SPAIN 1 (Guerrero 24)
BELGIUM 1 (Degryse 26)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Harrel (Fra)
Spain: Zubizarreta – Belsue, Sergi, Abelardo, Nadal, Hierro, Luis Enrique, Guerrero (Higuera 46), Salinas (Pizzi 64), Donato, Amavisca.
Belgium: Bodart – Genaus, Medved, Renier, Smidts, Walem (G Verheyen 68), Karagiannis (Crasson 83), Staelens, Degryse, de Gunther.

Mar 29 = Istanbul – Euro Chp gp 3
TURKEY 2 (Emre Asik 64, Sergen Yalcin 75)
SWEDEN 1 (K. Andersson 23 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
Turkey: Engin – Alpay, Bulent K, Emre, Recep, Metin, Tolunay, Sergen (Mutlu 77), Abdullah, Hakan, Ertugrul (Oguz 46).
Sweden: Ravelli – Andersson, Bjorklund, Ljung, Nilsson, Zetterberg (Rehn 81), Thern, Schwarz, Andersson, Dahlin, H Larsson (Blomqvist 75).

Mar 29 = Kiev – Euro Chp gp 4
UKRAINE 0
ITALY 2 (Lombardo 12, Zola 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Ukraine: Tyapushkin – Luzhny (Bukel 56), Teleshenko, Khomin, Yetushok, Orbu, Mizin (Pohlebayev 89), Kalitvintsev, Shevchenko, Leonenko, Konovalov.
Italy: Peruzzi – Benarrivo, Maldini, Albertini, Apolloni, Minotti, Lombardo (Conte 78), Di Matteo, Casiraghi (Ravanelli 61), Zola, Berti.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Mar 31 = Belgrade – **friendly**
YUGOSLAVIA 1 (Savo Milosevic 71)
URUGUAY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun).
Yugoslavia: Pandurevic (Milojevic 87) – Mirkovic, Djorovic, Saveljic (Curic 53), Saula, Stefanovic (Pantelic 65), Govedarica (Cakar 78), Nadj, Kovacevic, Petkovic, Milosevic (Petrovic 53).
Uruguay: Ferro – Augirregaray, T Silva (Adinolfi 62), Mendez, Dorta (Abejon 27), Montero, Elias, Bengoechea (Tejera 62), Otero (Canobbio 77), Francescoli (Cedres 46), Dario Silva.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Apr 7 = Afr Chp gp 2
MAURITANIA 0
SENEGAL 1

Apr 7 = Af Chp gp 4
EGYPT 3
SUDAN 1
HT: 1-0.

Apr 7 = Af Chp gp 4
ALGERIA 2
ETHIOPIA 0

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Apr 8 = Af Chp gp 3
SIERRA LEONE 1 (L Conteh 77 pen)
GHANA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Apr 8 = Af Chp gp 4
UGANDA 2 (Obwinyi 30, Mutyaba 38)
TANZANIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.

Apr 8 = Af Chp gp 5
ZAMBIA 1 (Kalusha Bwalya 83)
GABON 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Apr 8 = Af Chp gp 6
NAMIBIA 2 (Lucky Richter 11, Sylvester Goraseb 61)
ANGOLA 2 (Paulao 8, Quinzinho 76)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Apr 9 = Lilongwe – Af Chp gp 1
MALAWI 0
ZAIRE 1 (Liombi Essende 11)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000.

Apr 9 = Maseru – Af Chp gp 1
LESOTHO 0
ZIMBABWE 2 (Agent Sawu 14, Isaac Rinyano 16)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,000.

Apr 9 = Lome – Af Chp gp 2
TOGO 0
LIBERIA 0
Att: 15,000

Apr 9 = Maputo – Af Chp gp 6
MOZAMBIQUE 1 (Chiquinho Conde 44)
MALI 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Apr 9 = Conakry – Af Chp gp 6
GUINEA 5 (Fode Camara 6, 10, Mohamed Sylla 54, Taifour Diane 60, Abdoul Salam Sow 88)
BOTSWANA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Apr 9 = Casablanca – Af Chp gp 7
MOROCCO 0
BURKINA FASO 0
Att: 45,000

1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

● *Group winners & six best second-placed teams qualify for finals. Remaining two second-placed teams play-off for place in the finals.*
Note: *Records against bottom two teams in each group do not count towards final positions for qualification purposes.*

GROUP 1

04.09.94	Israel v Poland	2-1
07.09.94	Slovakia v France	0-0
07.09.94	Romania v Azerbaijan	3-0
08.10.94	France v Romania	0-0
12.10.94	Israel v Slovakia	2-2
12.10.94	Poland v Azerbaijan	1-0
12.11.94	Romania v Slovakia	3-2
16.11.94	Poland v France	0-0
16.11.94	Azerbaijan v Israel	0-2
13.12.94	Azerbaijan v France	0-2
14.12.94	Israel v Romania	1-1
29.03.95	Romania v Poland	2-1
29.03.95	Israel v France	0-0
29.03.95	Slovakia v Azerbaijan	4-1
25.04.95	Poland v Israel	
26.04.95	France v Slovakia	
26.04.95	Azerbaijan v Romania	
07.06.95	Poland v Slovakia	
07.06.95	Romania v Israel	
16.08.95	France v Poland	
16.08.95	Azerbaijan v Slovakia	
06.09.95	France v Azerbaijan	
06.09.95	Slovakia v Israel	
06.09.95	Poland v Romania	
11.10.95	Romania v France	
11.10.95	Israel v Azerbaijan	
11.10.95	Slovakia v Poland	
15.11.95	Slovakia v Romania	
15.11.95	Azerbaijan v Poland	
15.11.95	France v Israel	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	5	3	2	0	9	4	11
Israel	5	2	3	0	7	4	9
France	5	1	4	0	2	0	7
Slovakia	4	1	2	1	8	6	5
Poland	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Azerbaijan	5	0	0	5	1	12	0

GROUP 2

07.09.94	Cyprus v Spain	1-2
07.09.94	Macedonia v Denmark	1-1
07.09.94	Belgium v Armenia	2-0
08.10.94	Armenia v Cyprus	0-0
12.10.94	Denmark v Belgium	3-1
12.10.94	Macedonia v Spain	0-2
16.11.94	Belgium v Macedonia	1-1
16.11.94	Spain v Denmark	3-0
16.11.94	Cyprus v Armenia	2-0
17.12.94	Belgium v Spain	1-4
17.12.94	Macedonia v Cyprus	3-0
29.03.95	Spain v Belgium	1-1
29.03.95	Cyprus v Denmark	1-1
26.04.95	Armenia v Spain	
26.04.95	Belgium v Cyprus	
26.04.95	Denmark v Macedonia	
10.05.95	Armenia v Macedonia	
07.06.95	Denmark v Cyprus	
07.06.95	Macedonia v Belgium	
07.06.95	Spain v Armenia	
16.08.95	Armenia v Denmark	
06.09.95	Belgium v Denmark	
06.09.95	Spain v Cyprus	
06.09.95	Macedonia v Armenia	
07.10.95	Armenia v Belgium	
11.10.95	Denmark v Spain	
11.10.95	Cyprus v Macedonia	
15.11.95	Spain v Macedonia	
15.11.95	Cyprus v Belgium	
15.11.95	Denmark v Armenia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	4	1	0	12	3	13
Macedonia	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Denmark	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Cyprus	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Belgium	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Armenia	3	0	1	2	0	4	1

GROUP 3

07.09.94	Iceland v Sweden	0-1
07.09.94	Hungary v Turkey	2-2
12.10.94	Turkey v Iceland	5-0
12.10.94	Switzerland v Sweden	4-2
16.11.94	Switzerland v Iceland	1-0
16.11.94	Sweden v Hungary	2-0
14.12.94	Turkey v Switzerland	1-2
29.03.95	Turkey v Sweden	2-1
29.03.95	Hungary v Switzerland	2-2
26.04.95	Hungary v Sweden	
26.04.95	Switzerland v Turkey	
01.06.95	Sweden v Iceland	

RESULTS

Fixtures for Under-20 World Cup, Women's World Cup and US Cup

11.06.95 Iceland v Hungary
16.08.95 Iceland v Switzerland
06.09.95 Sweden v Switzerland
06.09.95 Turkey v Hungary
11.10.95 Switzerland v Hungary
11.10.95 Iceland v Turkey
11.11.95 Hungary v Iceland
15.11.95 Sweden v Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	4	3	1	0	9	5	10
Turkey	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Sweden	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Hungary	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Iceland	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

GROUP 4

04.09.94 Estonia v Croatia 0-2
07.09.94 Slovenia v Italy 1-1
07.09.94 Ukraine v Lithuania 0-2
08.10.94 Estonia v Italy 0-2
09.10.94 Croatia v Lithuania 2-0
12.10.94 Ukraine v Slovenia 0-0
13.11.94 Ukraine v Estonia 3-0
16.11.94 Slovenia v Lithuania 1-2
16.11.94 Italy v Croatia 1-2
25.03.95 Italy v Estonia 4-1
25.03.95 Croatia v Ukraine 4-0
29.03.95 Slovenia v Estonia 3-0
29.03.95 Ukraine v Italy 0-2
29.03.95 Lithuania v Croatia 0-0
26.04.95 Lithuania v Italy
26.04.95 Croatia v Slovenia
26.04.95 Estonia v Ukraine
07.06.95 Lithuania v Slovenia
11.06.95 Estonia v Slovenia
11.06.95 Ukraine v Croatia
16.08.95 Estonia v Lithuania
06.09.95 Croatia v Estonia
06.09.95 Italy v Slovenia
06.09.95 Lithuania v Ukraine
08.10.95 Croatia v Italy
11.10.95 Slovenia v Ukraine
11.10.95 Lithuania v Estonia
11.11.95 Italy v Ukraine
15.11.95 Slovenia v Croatia
15.11.95 Italy v Lithuania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	5	4	1	0	10	1	13
Italy	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
Lithuania	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Slovenia	4	1	2	1	5	3	5
Ukraine	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Estonia	5	0	0	5	1	14	0

GROUP 5

06.09.94 Czech Rep v Malta 6-1
07.09.94 Luxembourg v Holland 0-4
07.09.94 Norway v Byelorussia 1-0
12.10.94 Malta v Czech Rep 0-0
12.10.94 Byelorussia v Luxembourg 2-0
12.10.94 Norway v Holland 1-1
16.11.94 Byelorussia v Norway 0-4
16.11.94 Holland v Czech Rep 0-0
14.12.94 Malta v Norway 0-1
14.12.94 Holland v Luxembourg 5-0
22.02.95 Malta v Luxembourg 0-1
29.03.95 Czech Rep v Byelorussia 4-2
29.03.95 Luxembourg v Norway 0-2
29.03.95 Holland v Malta 4-0
26.04.95 Byelorussia v Malta
26.04.95 Czech Rep v Holland
26.04.95 Norway v Luxembourg
07.06.95 Byelorussia v Holland
07.06.95 Luxembourg v Czech Rep
07.06.95 Norway v Malta
16.08.95 Norway v Czech Rep
06.09.95 Czech Rep v Norway
06.09.95 Luxembourg v Malta
06.09.95 Holland v Byelorussia
07.10.95 Byelorussia v Czech Rep
11.10.95 Malta v Holland
11.10.95 Luxembourg v Byelorussia
12.11.95 Malta v Byelorussia
15.11.95 Czech Rep v Luxembourg
15.11.95 Holland v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	5	4	1	0	9	1	13
Holland	5	3	2	0	14	1	11
Czech Republic	4	2	2	0	10	3	8
Byelorussia	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
Luxembourg	5	1	0	4	1	13	3
Malta	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

GROUP 6

20.04.94 N. Ireland v Liechtenstein 4-1
07.09.94 Liechtenstein v Austria 0-4
07.09.94 N. Ireland v Portugal 1-2
07.09.94 Latvia v Rep. Ireland 0-3
09.10.94 Latvia v Portugal 1-3
12.10.94 Austria v N. Ireland 1-2
12.10.94 Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein 4-0
13.11.94 Portugal v Austria 1-0
15.11.94 Liechtenstein v Latvia 0-1
16.11.94 N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland 0-4
18.12.94 Portugal v Liechtenstein 8-0
29.03.95 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland 1-1
29.03.95 Austria v Latvia 5-0
26.04.95 Rep. Ireland v Portugal
26.04.95 Latvia v N. Ireland
26.04.95 Austria v Liechtenstein
03.06.95 Portugal v Latvia
03.06.95 Liechtenstein v Rep. Ireland
07.06.95 N. Ireland v Latvia
11.06.95 Rep. Ireland v Austria
15.08.95 Liechtenstein v Portugal
16.08.95 Latvia v Austria
03.09.95 Portugal v N. Ireland
06.09.95 Austria v Rep. Ireland
06.09.95 Latvia v Liechtenstein
11.10.95 Rep. Ireland v Latvia
11.10.95 Austria v Portugal
11.10.95 Liechtenstein v N. Ireland
15.11.95 Portugal v Rep. Ireland
15.11.95 N. Ireland v Austria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	4	4	0	0	14	2	12
Rep. Ireland	4	3	1	0	12	1	10
Northern Ireland	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Austria	4	2	0	2	10	3	6
Latvia	4	1	0	3	2	11	3
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	5	1	21	0

GROUP 7

07.09.94 Wales v Albania 2-0
07.09.94 Georgia v Moldova 0-1
12.10.94 Moldova v Wales 3-2
12.10.94 Bulgaria v Georgia 2-0
16.11.94 Albania v Germany 1-2
16.11.94 Georgia v Wales 5-0
16.11.94 Bulgaria v Moldova 4-1
14.12.94 Wales v Bulgaria 0-3
14.12.94 Moldova v Germany 0-3
14.12.94 Albania v Georgia 0-1
18.12.94 Germany v Albania 2-1
29.03.95 Georgia v Germany 0-2
29.03.95 Bulgaria v Wales 3-1
29.03.95 Albania v Moldova 3-0
26.04.95 Germany v Wales
26.04.95 Moldova v Bulgaria
26.04.95 Georgia v Albania
07.06.95 Bulgaria v Germany
07.06.95 Wales v Georgia
07.06.95 Moldova v Albania
06.09.95 Germany v Georgia
06.09.95 Wales v Moldova
06.09.95 Albania v Bulgaria
07.10.95 Bulgaria v Albania
08.10.95 Germany v Moldova
11.10.95 Wales v Germany
11.10.95 Georgia v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Germany v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Albania v Wales
15.11.95 Moldova v Georgia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Germany	4	4	0	0	9	2	12
Georgia	5	2	0	3	6	5	6
Moldova	5	2	0	3	5	12	6
Albania	5	1	0	4	5	7	3
Wales	5	1	0	4	5	14	3

GROUP 8

07.09.94 Finland v Scotland 0-2
07.09.94 Faroe Islands v Greece 1-5
12.10.94 Scotland v Faroe Islands 5-1
12.10.94 Greece v Finland 4-0
12.10.94 Russia v San Marino 4-0
16.11.94 Scotland v Russia 1-1
16.11.94 Greece v San Marino 2-0
16.11.94 Finland v Faroe Islands 5-0
14.12.94 Finland v San Marino 4-1
18.12.94 Greece v Scotland 1-0
29.03.94 Russia v Scotland 0-0
29.03.95 San Marino v Finland 0-2
26.04.95 San Marino v Scotland
26.04.95 Greece v Russia
26.04.95 Faroe Islands v Finland
06.05.95 Russia v Faroe Islands
25.05.95 Faroe Islands v San Marino
07.06.95 Faroe Islands v Scotland
07.06.95 San Marino v Russia
11.06.95 Finland v Greece
16.08.95 Scotland v Greece
16.08.95 Finland v Russia
06.09.95 Scotland v Finland
06.09.95 Faroe Islands v Russia
06.09.95 San Marino v Greece
11.10.95 Russia v Greece
11.10.95 San Marino v Faroe Islands
15.11.95 Scotland v San Marino
15.11.95 Russia v Finland
15.11.95 Greece v Faroe Islands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	4	4	0	0	12	1	12
Finland	5	3	0	2	11	7	9
Scotland	5	2	2	1	8	3	8
Russia	3	1	2	0	5	1	5
San Marino	4	0	0	4	1	12	0
Faroe Islands	3	0	0	3	2	15	0

EURO '95 TOURNAMENT

03.06.95 England v Japan *(Wembley)*
04.06.95 Brazil v Sweden *(Villa Park)*
06.06.95 Japan v Brazil *(Goodison Park)*
07.06.95 England v Sweden *(Elland Road)*
10.06.95 Sweden v Japan *(City Ground, Nottingham)*
11.06.95 England v Brazil *(Wembley)*

US CUP '95

15.06.95 US v Nigeria *(Foxboro, Mass)*
17.06.95 Colombia v Nigeria *(Piscataway, NJ)*
18.06.95 US v Mexico *(Washington DC)*
21.06.95 Mexico v Colombia *(Washington DC)*
24.06.95 Nigeria v Mexico *(Dallas)*
25.06.95 US v Colombia *(Piscataway, NJ)*

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

(In Doha, Qatar)

First Round

Group A

13.04.95 Qatar v Russia (5.15)
14.04.95 Syria v Brazil (2.15)
16.04.95 Qatar v Syria (2.15)
17.04.95 Russia v Brazil (2.15)
19.04.95 Qatar v Brazil (2.15)
19.04.95 Russia v Syria (2.15)

Group B

13.04.95 Burundi v Spain (2.15)
14.04.95 Chile v Japan (2.15)
16.04.95 Burundi v Chile (2.15)
17.04.95 Spain v Japan (2.15)
19.04.95 Burundi v Japan (4.45)
19.04.95 Spain v Chile (4.45)

Group C

13.04.95 Holland v Argentina (2.15)
14.04.95 Honduras v Portugal (4.45)
16.04.95 Holland v Honduras (4.45)
17.04.95 Argentina v Portugal (4.45)
20.04.95 Holland v Portugal (2.15)
20.04.95 Argentina v Honduras (2.15)

Group D

13.04.95 Australia v Costa Rica (4.45)
14.04.95 Cameroon v Germany (4.45)
16.04.95 Australia v Cameroon (4.45)
17.04.95 Costa Rica v Germany (4.45)
20.04.95 Australia v Germany (4.45)
20.04.95 Costa Rica v Cameroon (4.45)

Quarter-finals

23.04.95 1st Gp A v 2nd Gp B (2.15)
23.04.95 1st Gp B v 2nd Gp A (2.15)
23.04.95 1st Gp C v 2nd Gp D (5.15)
23.04.95 1st Gp D v 2nd Gp C (5.15)

Semi-finals

25.04.95 1st q-f 1 v 1st q-f 3 (2.15)
25.04.95 1st q-f 2 v 1st q-f 4 (5.15)

3rd place play-off

28.04.95 semi-final losers (11.45)

Final

28.04.95 semi-final winners (2.15)

● *all times listed in GMT*

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP – *Sweden '95*

1st Round

Group A

05.06.95 Germany v Japan *(Karlstad, 2.00pm CET)*
05.06.95 Sweden v Brazil *(Helsingborg, 6.00)*
07.06.95 Sweden v Germany *(Helsingborg, 7.00)*
07.06.95 Brazil v Japan *(Karlstad, 7.00)*
09.06.95 Sweden v Japan *(Vasteras, 7.00)*
09.06.95 Brazil v Germany *(Karlstad, 7.00)*

Group B

06.06.95 Norway v SA/Nigeria *(Karlstad, 7.00)*
06.06.95 England v Canada *(Helsingborg, 7.00)*
08.06.95 Norway v England *(Karlstad, 7.00)*
08.06.95 SA/Nigeria v Canada *(Helsingborg, 7.00)*
10.06.95 Norway v Canada *(Gavle, 4.00)*
10.06.95 SA/Nigeria v England *(Karlstad, 4.00)*

Group C

06.06.95 US v China *(Gavle, 7.00)*
06.06.95 Denmark v Australia *(Vasteras, 7.00)*
08.06.95 US v Denmark *(Gavle, 7.00)*
08.06.95 China v Australia *(Vasteras, 7.00)*
10.06.95 US v Australia *(Helsingborg, 4.00)*
10.06.95 China v Denmark *(Vasteras, 4.00)*

Quarter-finals

(Draw will depend on Group results)
13.06.95 Gavle (5.15)
13.06.95 Karlstad (5.15)
13.06.95 Vasteras (8.15)
13.06.95 Helsingborg (8.15)

Semi-finals

15.06.95 Vasteras (5.15)
15.06.95 Helsingborg (8.15)

3rd place play-off

17.06.95 Gavle (4.00)

Final

18.06.95 Stockholm (6.00)

SOUTH AMERICA

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING

CONCACAF ZONE

Feb.18 = 1st round, 1st leg
GUATEMALA 4 BELIZE 0

LIBERTADORES CUP – 1995

1st Round

Group 1

Feb.19 = Avellaneda (Argentina)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 1 (Burruchaga)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 1 (Francescoli)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli (Arg).
Independiente: Islas, Craviotto, Rotchen, (Maturana), Serrizuela, Rios, Cagna, Cascini, Burruchaga, Garnero (Mazzoni), Usuriaga, Rambert.
River Plate: Buros, H. Diaz, R. Ayala, Cortin, Lavallen, Villarreal (Rivarola), Astrada, Berti, Cedres, Ortega (Almeyda), Francescoli.

Feb 19 = In Montevideo (Uruguay)
PENAROL (Uru) 3 (Bengoechea 2 [1 pen], Torales)
CERRO (Uru) 3 (Homann 2 [1 pen], Acosta.
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Jose Da Rosa (Uru).
Penarol: Ferro, Gutierrez, Aguirregaray, Tais, Lima, Dorta, E. De los Santos, Bengoechea, N. Rodriguez, Pacheco, D. Silva (Romero).
Cerro: R. Rodriguez, Balbosa (Velazco), Torales, Bartora, P. Silva, Almada, D. De los Santos, Homann, Luzardo (Cabrera), Acosta, Viera.

Feb. 23 = Montevideo (Uruguay)
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Rodriguez)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 2 (Mazzoni, Burruchaga pen)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Antonio Pereira (Bra)
Penarol: Ferro, Tais, Gutierrez (G. De los Santos), Aguirregaray, Oliveira, Dorta, E. De los Santos (Baltierra), Pacheco, Bengoechea, D. Silva, M. Rodriguez.
Independiente: Islas, Craviotto, Arzeno, Serrizuela, Rios, Gomez, Cascini, Cagna, Burruchaga (Morales), Usuriaga (Vidal), Mazzoni.

Feb. 24 = Montevideo (Uruguay)
CERRO (Uru) 0
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 1 (Berti)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Claudio Pimentel (Bra)
Cerro: R. Rodriguez, Velazco, Torales (Madrid), Bartora, P. Silva, Almada, D. De los Santos, Luzardo (Cabrera), Homann, Viera, Acosta.
River Plate: Burgos, H. Diaz, C. Ayala, Rivarola, Lavallen, Villarreal, (Toresani), Almeyda, Berti, Cedres, Amato (Silvani), Francescoli.

Group 2

Feb.15 = Asuncion (Paraguay)
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Samaniego)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 1 (Villamayor)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Benegas (Par) **Att:** 25,000.
Olimpia: Ardiza, Caceres, Caballero, Saravia, Suarez, Jara, Vidal Sanabria, Espeche (Guirlan), Sotelo (Vargas), Baez, Samaniego.
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Villamayor, Cristaldo, Alcaraz, Caceres, Struway (Paiva), Enciso, Cohener, Ferreyra, Nunez, Sandoval (Cabanas).

In Valera (Venezuela).
TRUJILLANOS (Ven) 1 (Torres)
CARACAS FC (Ven) 3 (Gerson Diaz 2, Salissu)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** R. Perez (Ven). **Att:** 10,000.
Trujillanos: Garcia, Torres, Betancourt, Duran, Vallenilla, Gonzalez, Celedon (Alastre), Balbuena, Valiente, Chagas (Rengifo), Rosas.
Caracas: Baena, Bencomo, Maldonado, Paez Pumar (Vitalli), Martinez, Hezel, Berruti, Diaz (Cavallo), Rivas. S, Salissu, Neblina.

Feb.21 = Asuncion (Paraguay)
OLIMPIA (Par) 5 (Baez 2, Esteche, Samaniego, Hezzel og)
CARACAS FC (Ven) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** R Buscio (Arg). **Att:** 12,000.
Olimpia: Arbiza, Caceres, Caballero, Saravia, Suarez, Jara, V. Sanabria, Espeche, Campos, Baez (Guirlan), Samaniego.
Caracas: Baena, Bencomo, Martinez, Maldonado, Paez Umar (Bolivar), Hezel, Berruti, Diaz (Barreto), S. Rivas, Ednilson, Sallizu.

Feb. 24 = Asuncion (Paraguay)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 2 (Ferreira, Gamarra)
CARACAS FC (Ven) 1 (Salisu)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Horacio Elizondo (Arg).
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Villamayor, Cristaldo (Espinola), Gamarra, Alcaraz, Cohener, Enciso, Struway (Sandoval), Ferreira, Nunez, Cabanas.
Caracas: Barreto, Bencome, Martinez, Vitali, Maldonado, Mendoza (Giraldo), Berruti (Cavallo), Hezzel, Bolivar, Gerson, Diaz, Sallizu.

Feb. 28 = Valera (Venezuela)
TRUJILLANOS (Ven) 2 (Rengifo, Chagas)
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Samaniego, Baez)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000.
Trujillanos: Garcia, Betancourt, Gonzalez, Torres (Valiente), Lupi, Pacheco, Celedon, Rengifo, Chagas, Alastra, Rosas.
Olimpia: Arbiza, Caceres, Saravia, Suarez, Caballero, Caniza, Jara, V. Sanabria, Esteche (Campos), Samaniego (Vargas), Baez.

Mar. 3 = Caracas (Venezuela)
CARACAS (Ven) 1 (Gerson Diaz)
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Suarez, Baez)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** J Torres (Col). **Att:** 10,000.
Caracas: Baena, Bencomo, Maldonado, Vitali, Martinez, Berruti, Hezzel, Bolivar (Contreras), Diaz, S. Rivas, Sallizu (Mendoza).
Olimpia: Arbiza, Caceres, Sarabia, Fernandez, Calailero, Suarez, Jara, V. Sanabria, Esteche, Samaniego, Baez (Guirlan).

Group 3

Feb.10 = Santiago (Chile)
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 4 (Salas 3, Goldberg)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 1 (Acosta)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Eduardo Gamboa.
Univ. de Chile: Vargas, C. Castaneda, Abarca, Fuentes, Ponce, Musrri, Valencia, Mardones, Ibanez (Goldberg), O. Acosta (V. Castaneda), Salas.
Univ. Catolica: Toledo, Romaro, Vazquez (Lopez), Ardiman (Ceballos), Lepe, Parraguez, Lunari, A. Acosta, Gorosito, Tupper, Barrera.

Feb.15 = Medellin (Colombia)
ATLETICO NACIONAL (Col) 0
MILLONARIOS (Col) 0
Ref: Jose Torres (Col). **Att:** 35,000.
Nacional: Higuita, Herrera, Marulanda, Foronda, Santa (Mosquera), Gaviria, Gutierrez, Serna, Garcia, Angel (Matamba), Aristizabal.
Millonarios: Villarraga, Rivas, Lopez, Alvarez, Dominquez, Mosquera, Nino, Ramirez, Rendon, Iguaran, Leon.

Feb. 21 = Bogota (Colombia)
MILLONARIOS (Col) 5 (Rendon, Dominquez, Iguaran, Leon, Mosquera)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 1 (Acosta)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** A Tejada (Peru) **Att:** 40,000.
Millonarios: Villarraga, Rivas, Lopez, Alvarez, Dominguez, Mosquera, Nino (Y. Mosquera), Ramirez, Rendon, Iguaran (Da Silva), Leon.
Univ. Catolica: Toledo (Tapia), Tupper, Vasquez, Ardiman, Ceballos (M. Miller), Lepe, Parraquez, Lunari, Gorosito, Acosta, Barrera (Rosenthal).

Feb. 24 = Medellin (Colombia)
ATLETICO NACIONAL (Col) 3 (Angel, Gaviria, Aristizabal)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 1 (Vasquez)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** A Tejada (Peru) **Att:** 30,000.
Nacional: Higuita, Herrera, Marulanda, Foronda, Santa, Gaviria, Gutierrez, Garcia, Serna, Aristizabal, Angel (Matamba).
Univ. Catolica: Tapia, Romero, Vasquez, Ovalle, Gomez, Parraguez, Lepe, Gorosito, Lunari, Acosta, Barticciotto (Rosenthal).

Group 4

Feb.22 = Guayaquil (Ecuador)
EMELEC (Ecu) 1 (Ron)
NACIONAL (Ecu) 1 (Vernaza)
HT: 1-0.

Feb.22 = Sao Paulo (Brazil)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 3 (Roberto Carlos, Rivaldo, Edmundo)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Jardel, Goiano)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,400.
Palmeiras: Veloso, Indio, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Mancuso, Amaral, Valber, Rivaldo, Maurilio, Edmundo.

Gremio: Danrlei, Vieira, Adilson, Luciano, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Mancini, Carlos Miguel, Paulo Nunes, Ardel.

Group 5

Feb. 8 = Lima (Peru)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 3 (Palacios, Julinho, Maestri)
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 0
HT: 2-0. Ref: Jose Arana (Peru).
Att: 42,000.
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Soto, Asteggiano, Prado, Solano, Palacios, Garay, Pineda, Maestri, Soto, Julinho.
Alianza: J. Rodriguez, Enrique, Ruiz, Basombrio, Rosales, Marquinho, Lente, Saenz, Sosani, C. Rodriguez, Legario.

Feb. 8 = La Paz (Bolivia)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 2 (Mir, Rios)
JORGE WILSTERMAN (Bol) 0
HT: 2-0. Ref: P. Saucedo (Bol).
Att: 35,000.
Bolivar: N'Kono, Borja, Rimba, Sandy, Castillo, Melgar, Soria, Suarez (Sanchez), Rios, Mir, Cueto (Ibanez).
Wilsterman: Galaza, Ibanez, Salguero, Kekes, Campos, Torrico, Parada (Cortez), Cardozo, Takeo, Maladot (Angola), Gonzalez.

Feb. 14 = Cochabamba (Bolivia)
JORGE WILSTERMAN (Bol) 2 (Gonzalez, Maladot)
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 1 (Lente)
HT: 0-0.
Wilsterman: Galarza, Torrico, Salquero, Kekes, Zegarra, Cardozo, Taborga, Cortez (Ibanez), Angulo, Gonzalez (Maladot), Angola.
Alianza: J. Rodriquez, Hinostroza (Saenz), Monzon, Ruiz, Sozzani, Enrique, Jayo, Marquinho, Lente, Muchotrigo (Rosales), M. Rodriguez.

Feb. 18 = La Paz (Bolivia)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 3 (Mir 2, Rios)
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 1 (Jayo)
HT: 1-1. Ref: Efigenio Verdun (Par).
Att: 41,500.
Bolivar: N'Kono, Borja, Rimba, Sandy, Castillo, Rios, Melgar, Soria, Suarez (Ramos), Cueto (Ibanez), Mir.
Alianza: J. Rodriguez, Enrique, Monzon, Sozzani, Hinostroza, Jayo, M. Rodriguez, Rosales, Dos Santos (Aspe), Muchotrigo (Saenz), Lente.

Feb. 21 = La Paz (Bolivia)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 1 (Cueto)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 1 (Bica)
HT: 1-0. Ref: Franciso Lamolina (Arg).
Att: 35,000.
Bolivar: N'Kono, Borja, Cueto, Mir, Castillo, Soria, Rimba, Sandy, Suarez, Rios, Melgar.
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Palacios, Maestri, Soto, Julinho, Asteggiano, Prada, Garay, Solano, Pinillos, Bica.

Feb.24 = Cochabamba (Bolivia)
JORGE WILSTERMAN (Bol) 2 (Maladot, Angola)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 2 (Pinillos, Palacios)
HT: 0-1. Ref: A Sanchez (Arg).
Att: 35,000.
Wilsterman: Galarza, Torrico, Salguero, Kekes, Zegarra, Cortez, Angulo, Takeo (Gonzalez), Taborga (Menezes), Maladot, Angola.
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Jorge Soto, Jose Soto, Asteggiano, Prado, Solano, Garay, Palacios, Pinillos, De Andrade (J. Rivas), Maestri.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

Feb 7: Colo Colo (Chi) 0 America (Col) 3.
Feb 11: Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 1 Pachuca (Mex) 0 (in Bogota), Millonarios (Col) 3 Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0.
Feb 14: Penarol (Uru) 3 Vardar (Mac) 1.
Feb 19: Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 4 Deportivo Quito (Ecu) 0.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Feb 5: Newell's Old Boys (Arg) 0 Macedonia XI 1.
Feb 11: Newell's Old Boys (Arg) 2 Slovakia XI 1, Guatemala U-23 0 Minsk Dynamo (Rus) 0, Millonarios (Col) 3 Poland XI 1.
Feb 13: Pachuca (Mex) 2 Poland XI 1 (in Bogota).
Mar 1: Colombia U-23 Costa Rica U-23 0, Colombia XI 1 Independiente (Arg) 1.
Mar 2: Chile U-23 2 Mexico U-23 1.

CONCACAF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

1st round, 1st leg

Feb 19 = Tegucigalpa (Honduras)
MOTAGUA (Hon) 0
SAPRISSA (CR) 1 (Fonseca)
HT: 0-1. Ref: Francisco Morales (Guat).
Motagua: Cruz, Carson, Avila, Alvarez, Rodriguez (Aplicano), De Oliviera, Fernandez, Arzu (Guevara), Avila, E. Sierra, D. Sierra.
Saprissa: Lonnis, Quesada, Wright, Gonzalez, Diaz, Mayorga, Ramirez, Fonseca, Viegas, Rodriguez (Salazar), R. Myers (M. Myers).

LIBERTADORES CUP 1995

● *TOP three teams in each group qualify for the second round. Holders Velez Sarsfield of Argentina have a bye to the second round.*

1st round

Group 1
(Argentina & Uruguay)

19.02.95	Independiente v River Plate	1-1
19.02.95	Penarol v Cerro	3-3
22.02.95	Independiente v Penarol	2-1
23.02.95	River Plate v Cerro	1-0
08.03.95	Penarol v River Plate	1-1
09.03.95	Cerro v Independiente	1-0
15.03.95	Cerro v Penarol	0-2
29.03.95	River Plate v Independiente	2-0
13.04.95	Cerro v River Plate	
14.04.95	Penarol v Independiente	
19.04.95	River Plate v Penarol	
20.04.95	Independiente v Cerro	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Penarol	4	1	2	1	7	6	5
Cerro	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Independiente	4	1	1	2	3	5	4

Group 2
(Paraguay & Venezuela)

15.02.95	Olimpia v Cerro Porteno	1-1
15.02.95	Trujillanos v Caracas	1-3
21.02.95	Olimpia v Caracas	5-0
24.02.95	Cerro Porteno v Caracas	2-1
28.02.95	Trujillanos v Olimpia	2-2
03.03.95	Caracas v Olimpia	1-2
22.03.95	Cerro Porteno v Olimpia	2-2
22.03.95	Caracas v Trujillanos	3-2
28.03.95	Trujillanos v Cerro Porteno	1-2
31.03.95	Caracas v Cerro Porteno	0-6
04.04.95	Olimpia v Trujillanos	4-1
07.04.95	Cerro Porteno v Trujillanos	3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CERRO PORTENO	6	4	2	0	16	6	14
OLIMPIA	6	3	3	0	16	7	12
CARACAS	6	2	0	4	8	18	6
Trujillanos	6	0	1	5	8	17	1

Group 3
(Chile & Colombia)

10.02.95	Univ. de Chile v Univ. Catolica	4-1
15.02.95	At. Nacional v Millonarios	0-0
21.02.95	Millonarios v Univ. Catolica	5-1
24.02.95	At. Nacional v Univ. Catolica	3-1
07.03.95	Millonarios v Univ. de Chile	1-0
10.03.95	At. Nacional v Univ. de Chile	1-0
15.03.95	Univ. Catolica v Univ. de Chile	2-0
15.03.95	Millonarios v At. Nacional	2-0
21.03.95	Univ. Catolica v Millonarios	4-1
24.03.95	Univ. de Chile v Millonarios	3-2
04.04.95	Univ. Catolica v At. Nacional	1-1
07.04.95	Univ. de Chile v At. Nacional	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MILLONARIOS	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
AT. NACIONAL	6	2	3	1	5	4	9
UNIV. DE CHILE	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
Univ. Catolica	6	2	1	3	10	14	7

Group 4
(Ecuador & Brazil)

21.02.95	Palmeiras v Gremio	3-2
22.02.95	Emelec v Nacional	1-1
07.03.95	Nacional v Palmeiras	1-0
10.03.95	Emelec v Palmeiras	1-3
14.03.95	Emelec v Gremio	2-2
17.03.95	Nacional v Gremio	1-2
22.03.95	Gremio v Palmeiras	0-0
23.03.95	Nacional v Emelec	0-2
28.03.95	Palmeiras v Emelec	2-1
31.03.95	Gremio v Emelec	4-1
04.04.95	Palmeiras v Nacional	7-0
07.04.95	Gremio v Nacional	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PALMEIRAS	6	4	1	1	15	5	13
GREMIO	6	3	2	1	12	7	11
EMELEC	6	1	2	3	8	12	5
Nacional	6	1	1	4	3	14	4

Group 5
(Peru & Bolivia)

08.02.95	Bolivar v Wilsterman	2-0
08.02.95	Spt. Cristal v Alianza Lima	3-0
14.02.95	Wilsterman v Alianza Lima	2-1
18.02.95	Bolivar v Alianza Lima	3-1
21.02.95	Wilsterman v Sporting Cristal	2-2
24.02.95	Bolivar v Sporting Cristal	1-1
08.03.95	Alianza Lima v Sporting Cristal	1-1
08.03.95	Wilsterman v Bolivar	1-1
14.03.95	Alianza Lima v Wilsterman	6-1
17.03.95	Sporting Cristal v Wilsterman	7-0
21.03.95	Alianza Lima v Bolivar	1-1
24.03.95	Sporting Cristal v Bolivar	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPT CRISTAL	6	3	3	0	15	4	12
BOLIVAR	6	2	3	1	8	5	9
ALIANZA	6	1	2	3	10	11	5
Wilsterman	6	1	2	3	6	19	5

2nd round

1st leg

26.04.95	1st Gp 1 v Univ. de Chile
26.04.95	Cerro Porteno v Emelec
26.04.95	Millonarios v Alianza Lima
26.04.95	Palmeiras v 3rd Gp 1
26.04.95	Sporting Cristal v Caracas FC
26.04.95	2nd Gp 1 v At. Nacional
26.04.95	Gremio v Olimpia
26.04.95	Bolivar v Velez Sarsfield

2nd leg

03.05.95	Univ. de Chile v 1st Gp 1 *(A)*
03.05.95	Emelec v Cerro Porteno *(B)*
03.05.95	Alianza Lima v Millonarios *(C)*
03.05.95	3rd Gp 1 v Palmeiras *(D)*
03.05.95	Caracas v Sporting Cristal *(E)*
03.05.95	At. Nacional v 2nd Gp 1 *(F)*
03.05.95	Olimpia v Gremio *(G)*
03.05.95	Velez Sarsfield v Bolivar *(H)*

Quarter-finals

1st leg

26.07.95	Winner A v Winner B
26.07.95	Winner C v Winner D
26.07.95	Winner E v Winner F
26.07.95	Winner G v Winner H

2nd leg

02.08.95	Winner B v Winner A *(I)*
02.08.95	Winner D v Winner C *(J)*
02.08.95	Winner F v Winner E *(K)*
02.08.95	Winner H v Winner G *(L)*

Semi-finals

1st leg

09.08.95	Winner I v Winner J
09.08.95	Winner K v Winner L

2nd leg

16.08.95	Winner J v Winner I
16.08.95	Winner L v Winner K

Final

1st leg
23.08.95 semi-final winners

2nd leg
30.08.95 semi-final winners

BRAZIL

Rio State Championship
First round – final standings

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco da Gama	7	5	2	0	17	2	17
Entrerriense	7	4	2	1	9	7	14
Botafogo	7	3	3	1	13	7	12
America	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
Itapperuna	7	3	1	3	8	7	10
Barreira	7	1	3	3	8	12	6
Olaria	7	1	1	5	9	24	4
Sao Cristovao	7	0	2	5	7	15	2

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flamengo	7	5	2	0	18	3	17
Madureira	7	4	3	0	19	5	15
Fluminense	6	4	1	1	8	3	13
Bangu	7	3	2	2	12	9	11
Volta Redonda	7	3	0	4	6	9	9
Americano	7	1	2	4	4	11	5
Friburgense	7	1	1	5	5	14	4
Campo Grande	6	0	1	5	4	13	1

● *Winners qualify for 8-team final round*

Sao Paulo State League
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
XV de Piracicaba	7	4	3	0	13	4	15
Sao Paulo	6	4	1	1	13	5	13
Santos	6	3	3	0	12	6	12
Rio Branco	7	3	3	1	13	11	12
Corinthians	6	3	2	1	13	3	11
Palmeiras	7	3	2	2	14	8	11
Portuguesa	6	2	3	1	5	4	9
America	7	2	3	2	7	8	9
Guarani	7	3	0	4	7	10	9
Aracatuba	7	3	0	4	6	13	9
Ferroviaria	6	2	1	3	4	7	7
Uniao Sao Joao	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Bragantino	7	1	2	4	7	12	5
Novorizontino	7	1	2	4	5	11	5
Ponte Preta	4	1	0	3	3	15	3
Juventus	6	0	2	4	3	7	2

● *Top seven teams and Second Division winners qualify for second stage*

ECUADOR

First Division

After 3 games: 1) Barcelona, Espoli 9pts; 3) Green Cross 7; 4) Liga Universitaria de Quito, Deportivo Quito 6; 6) Emelec 4; 7) Univ. Portoviejo, Nacional, Aucas, Olmedo 3; 11) Delfin, Nueve de Octubre 0.

VENEZUELA

First Division Leaders

Group A: 1) Caracas FC 21 pts; 2) Mineros Guyana 18.
Group B: 1) Minerven 18; 2) Monagas, Maritimo 14.

CONCACAF

COSTA RICA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saprissa	37	20	11	6	56	29	51
Alajuela	39	23	5	11	75	40	51
San Carlos	37	19	10	8	49	38	48
Herediano	38	18	8	12	52	45	44
Cartagines	38	15	13	10	49	31	43
Ramonense	38	16	7	15	46	48	39
Perez Zeledon	39	12	14	13	41	41	38
Puntarenas	38	13	11	14	41	45	37
Belen	38	8	15	15	27	47	31
Turrialba	38	8	13	17	30	44	29
Limon	38	5	13	20	33	54	23
Sagrada Familia	38	8	6	24	27	64	22

EL SALVADOR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LA Firpo	29	16	11	2	56	24	44
FAS	29	15	11	3	54	26	44
Aguila	29	11	12	6	49	27	37
Atletico Marte	29	11	11	7	43	35	33
ADET	29	8	10	11	38	42	26
El Roble	29	7	11	11	29	36	25
Tiburones	29	6	13	10	27	39	25
Alianza	29	8	8	13	41	43	24
Mun. Limeno	29	3	15	11	25	43	21
Cojutepeque	29	4	10	15	28	75	18

● *One bonus point for winning by four or more goals*

GUADALOUPE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	12	8	4	0	24	4	32
Solidarite	12	7	3	2	20	5	29
Siroco	12	6	5	1	17	10	29
Arsenal	12	7	2	3	20	6	28
CS Moulien	12	5	2	5	13	15	24
Jeunesse	12	4	4	4	11	14	24
JS Abymes	12	2	7	3	10	12	23
Etoile	12	2	6	4	9	12	22
Racing Club	12	3	4	5	16	23	22
Rapid Club	12	1	6	5	8	17	20
Cygne Noir	12	1	4	7	11	21	18
AS Gosier	12	0	5	7	8	20	17

GUATEMALA

First Division – *final*

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Comunicaciones	22	15	5	2	35
Municipal	22	14	6	2	34
Suchitepequez	22	10	6	6	26
Aurora	22	8	9	5	25
Xelaju	22	7	8	7	22
Sacachispas	22	6	9	7	21
Amatitlan	22	6	8	8	20
Escuintla	22	4	11	7	19
Mictlan	22	6	7	9	19
Izabal	22	4	9	9	17
Coban Imperial	22	4	8	10	16
Chiquimulilla	22	2	6	14	10

Final Round
Hexagonal Group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sacachispas	4	2	2	0	6	2	6
Comunicaciones	3	1	2	0	4	2	4
Auxora	4	0	4	0	2	2	4
Xelaju	4	0	3	1	1	3	3
Suchitepequez	4	0	3	1	2	5	3
Municipal	3	0	2	1	1	2	2

Relegation Group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Amatitlan	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Coban Imperial	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Izabal JC	4	1	2	1	5	5	4
Mictlan	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Chiquimulilla	4	0	3	1	6	8	3
Escuintla	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

HONDURAS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	19	13	5	1	33	8	44
Motagua	18	12	5	1	30	11	41
Real Espana	19	8	6	5	21	15	30
Victoria	19	6	8	5	19	14	26
Real Maya	19	5	7	7	16	16	22
Marathon	19	5	6	8	19	21	21
Vida	19	4	7	8	23	32	19
Broncos	19	3	9	7	17	26	18
Platense	18	3	8	7	13	19	17
Progreseno	19	2	5	12	11	40	11

MARTINIQUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
US Robert	12	7	4	1	15	6	30
Club Francisciar	12	7	3	2	22	11	29
Aiglon	12	7	3	2	19	10	29
US Marinoise	12	7	2	3	23	14	28
Gauliose	12	4	6	2	15	8	26
River Pilote	12	5	3	4	13	12	25
Club Colonial	12	4	5	3	13	13	25
US Riveraine	12	5	3	4	13	16	25
Samaritaine	12	4	4	4	11	11	24
Excelsior	12	3	4	5	13	14	22
RC Arlesien	12	3	3	6	14	22	21
JA Trenelle	12	2	4	6	12	17	20
Case Pilote	12	1	3	8	11	12	17
Espoir	12	1	1	10	7	24	15

MEXICO

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club America	28	18	6	4	76	38	42
Necaxa	28	15	11	2	55	20	41
UAG	27	10	11	6	40	37	31
Toros Neza	27	8	6	13	40	48	22
UANL	27	5	8	14	26	36	18

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	27	12	7	8	62	37	31
Veracruz	28	10	8	10	36	40	28
Atlante	27	9	8	10	37	46	26
Morelia	27	8	10	9	43	55	26
UAT	27	8	8	11	31	40	24

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	27	16	6	5	54	30	38
UNAM	28	14	5	9	42	31	33
Puebla	27	10	12	5	32	27	32
Toluca	28	8	6	14	31	41	22
Tampico Madero	28	5	6	17	33	59	16

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	27	8	8	11	40	50	24
Atlas	28	9	6	13	30	39	24
Monterrey	28	5	13	10	24	42	23
Leon	28	7	7	14	27	43	21

ASIA

BAHRAIN – Mumtaz Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Muharraq	10	6	3	1	14	7	15
West Riffa	10	6	1	3	12	6	13
Al Qadisiya	10	5	3	2	14	9	13
Al Wehda	10	5	2	3	11	8	12
East Riffa	10	4	3	3	18	12	11
Bahrain	10	4	3	3	12	10	11
Al Ahli	10	5	0	5	12	11	10
Budaiya	10	2	5	3	7	8	9
Jidhafs	10	0	3	7	3	17	3
Manama	10	1	1	8	7	22	3

HONG KONG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Happy Valley	11	8	2	1	23	8	26
Eastern	10	6	2	1	16	6	20
South China	9	6	2	1	15	7	20
Frankwell	11	5	3	1	13	10	18
Golden	11	4	3	3	11	10	15
Rangers	9	2	4	3	9	13	10
Sing Tao	9	3	1	5	10	16	10
Instant-Dict	9	1	5	2	12	15	8
Kui Tan	11	2	2	6	10	20	8
Kitchee	12	1	2	6	12	26	5

JORDAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Wahadat	22	14	8	0	28	5	36
Al Ramtha	22	14	6	2	44	33	34
Al Faysali	22	13	7	2	42	9	33
Al Hussein	22	14	2	6	52	25	30
Al Jazira	22	11	5	6	32	23	27
Al Qadisiyah	22	8	6	8	31	26	22
Al Ahli	22	10	2	10	30	30	22
Kfarsoum	22	10	2	10	30	34	22
Al Arabi	22	7	5	10	26	34	19
Shb Al Hussein	22	2	4	16	20	47	8
Al Karmel	22	2	4	16	14	52	8
Al Jil	22	1	1	20	32	63	3

OMAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ourouba	17	10	6	1	36	11	36
Sur	17	8	7	2	24	12	31
Al Seib	16	7	8	1	19	9	29
Al Nasr	17	8	4	5	30	25	28
Al Ahli	17	8	4	5	26	21	28
Oman	16	7	6	3	22	16	27
Al Khaboura	16	6	5	5	17	19	23
Zaffer	14	6	4	4	30	15	22
Al Bustan	17	5	7	5	20	18	22
Mirbat	17	4	6	7	21	25	18
Al Souweiq	17	3	9	5	20	27	18
Al Hilal	17	4	3	10	12	34	15
Barkae	17	2	4	11	10	25	11
Sadab	17	0	3	14	6	38	3

DYNASTY CUP

1st Round: Hong Kong 0 Japan 3; China 0 South Korea 0.
2nd Round: Japan 1 South Korea 1; Hong Kong 0 China 0.
3rd Round: China 1 Japan 2; Hong Kong 2 South Korea 3.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
South Korea	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
China	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Hong Kong	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

3rd Place Play-off
HONG KONG 1 (Xiao Jian 2 og)
CHINA 1 (Li Bing 32). **HT:** 1-1.
Hong Kong won 3-1 on pens

Final
JAPAN 2 (Masahiro Fukuda 2, Motohiro Yamaguchi 87)
SOUTH KOREA 2 (Lee Ki-hyung 27, 90) **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 25,364.
Aet, Japan won 5-3 on pens

RESULTS

New Japanese J.League season . . . African Nations Cup update . .

J.LEAGUE

XEROX SUPER CUP

SATURDAY MARCH 11, 1995

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2 (Noguchi 45, Betinho 49)
VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Nunobe 82, Alcindo 85).
Att: 53,167.
Verdy won 4-2 on pens

J.LEAGUE – SUNTORY SERIES

SATURDAY MARCH 18, 1995

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Leonardo 17, 65 pen, Hasegawa 80)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 4 (Medina Bello 10, 87, Bisconti 36, Omura 86).
Att: 15,584.

VERDY KAWASAKI 0
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 0.
Att: 48,103.
Verdy won 7-6 on pens

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
CEREZO OSAKA 1 (Yamahashi 113).
Att: 14,175.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 3 (Toninho 37, Nasegawa 67, Dias 100)
KASHIWA REYSOL 2 (Okura 24, Yoshida og 29).
Att: 18,017.

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Yamaguchi 45, Protasov 72, Isogai 75)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Stojkovic 53).
Att: 14,007.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maeda 27)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0.
Att: 12,236.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Vasilijevic 89)
JUBILO IWATA 0.
Att: 13,637.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

- *Nigeria qualify as holders*
- *South Africa qualify as hosts*

GROUP 1

04.09.94 Zaire v Malawi 1-1
04.09.94 Zimbabwe v Lesotho 5-0
15.10.94 Malawi v Zimbabwe 3-1
15.10.94 Cameroon v Zaire 1-0
13.11.94 Lesotho v Cameroon 2-0
13.11.94 Zimbabwe v Zaire 2-1
08.01.95 Cameroon v Malawi 0-0
08.01.95 Zaire v Lesotho 3-0
22.01.95 Lesotho v Malawi 0-2
22.01.95 Zimbabwe v Cameroon 4-1
09.04.95 Malawi v Zaire 1-1
09.04.95 Lesotho v Zimbabwe 0-2
23.04.95 Zaire v Cameroon
23.04.95 Zimbabwe v Malawi
04.06.95 Cameroon v Lesotho
04.06.95 Zaire v Zimbabwe
15.07.95 Malawi v Cameroon
16.07.95 Lesotho v Zaire
29.07.95 Malawi v Lesotho
30.07.95 Cameroon v Zimbabwe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe	5	4	0	1	14	5	8
Malawi	5	2	3	0	7	3	7
Zaire	5	1	2	2	6	5	4
Cameroon	4	1	1	2	2	6	3
Lesotho	5	1	0	4	2	12	2

- *Swaziland withdrew*

GROUP 2

03.09.94 Senegal v Mauritania 0-0
04.09.94 Guinea-Bissau v Tunisia ...1-3
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
04.09.94 Liberia v Togo 1-0
14.10.94 Mauritania v Guinea-Bissau ...1-1
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
16.10.94 Togo v Senegal 2-0
11.11.94 Mauritania v Liberia 1-1
13.11.94 Guinea-Bissau v Senegal ..1-4
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
13.11.94 Tunisia v Togo 1-1
07.01.95 Senegal v Tunisia 0-0
08.01.95 Togo v Mauritania 0-0
22.01.95 Liberia v Senegal 1-1
29.01.95 Tunisia v Mauritania 1-0
10.02.95 Tunisia v Liberia 0-0
07.04.95 Mauritania v Senegal 0-1
09.04.95 Togo v Liberia 0-0
22.04.95 Senegal v Togo
23.04.95 Liberia v Tunisia
04.06.96 Liberia v Mauritania
04.06.95 Togo v Tunisia
14.07.95 Mauritania v Togo
16.07.95 Tunisia v Senegal
28.07.95 Mauritania v Tunisia
29.07.95 Senegal v Liberia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liberia	5	1	4	0	3	2	6
Togo	5	1	3	1	3	2	5
Tunisia	4	1	3	0	2	1	5
Senegal	5	1	3	1	2	3	5
Mauritania	5	0	3	2	1	3	3

- *Guinea-Bissau withdrew*

GROUP 3

04.09.94 Congo v Gambia 1-1
04.09.94 Ghana v Sierra Leone 4-1
16.10.94 Niger v Ghana 1-5
16.10.94 Sierra Leone v Congo 3-2
12.11.94 Gambia v Ghana 1-2
13.11.94 Niger v Sierra Leone 4-2
07.01.95 Sierra Leone v Gambia 2-0
08.01.95 Congo v Niger 3-1
22.01.95 Ghana v Congo 3-1
22.01.95 Niger v Gambia 1-1
08.04.95 Sierra Leone v Ghana 1-0
09.04.95 Gambia v Congo 1-1
23.04.95 Congo v Sierra Leone
23.04.95 Ghana v Niger
04.06.95 Ghana v Gambia
04.06.95 Sierra Leone v Niger
16.07.95 Gambia v Sierra Leone
16.07.95 Niger v Congo
30.07.95 Congo v Ghana
30.07.95 Gambia v Niger

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	5	4	0	1	14	5	8
Sierra Leone	5	3	0	2	9	10	6
Congo	5	1	2	2	8	9	4
Gambia	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Niger	4	1	1	2	7	11	3

- *Central African Republic withdrew*

GROUP 4

03.09.94 Tanzania v Uganda 4-0
04.09.94 Ethiopia v Algeria 0-0
04.09.94 Sudan v Egypt 0-0
14.10.94 Algeria v Sudan 1-1
14.10.94 Egypt v Tanzania 5-1
15.10.94 Uganda v Ethiopia 4-1
11.11.94 Egypt v Ethiopia 5-0
12.11.94 Tanzania v Sudan 2-0
12.11.95 Uganda v Algeria 1-1
07.01.95 Sudan v Uganda 3-1
08.01.95 Algeria v Egypt 1-0
08.01.95 Ethiopia v Tanzania 1-0
21.01.95 Tanzania v Algeria 2-1
21.01.95 Uganda v Egypt 0-0
22.01.95 Ethiopia v Sudan 2-0
07.04.95 Algeria v Ethiopia 2-0
07.04.95 Egypt v Sudan 3-1
08.04.95 Uganda v Tanzania 2-0
22.04.95 Tanzania v Egypt
23.04.95 Ethiopia v Uganda
23.04.95 Sudan v Algeria
02.06.95 Algeria v Uganda
04.06.95 Ethiopia v Egypt
04.06.95 Sudan v Tanzania
14.07.95 Egypt v Algeria
15.07.95 Tanzania v Ethiopia
15.07.95 Uganda v Sudan
28.07.95 Algeria v Tanzania
28.07.95 Egypt v Uganda
30.07.95 Sudan v Ethiopia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	6	3	2	1	13	3	8
Algeria	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
Tanzania	6	3	0	3	9	9	6
Uganda	6	2	2	2	8	9	6
Ethiopia	6	2	1	3	4	11	5
Sudan	6	1	2	3	5	9	4

GROUP 5

04.09.94 Madagascar v Sth Africa ...0-1
Result nulified, Madagascar withdrew
15.10.94 South Africa v Mauritius 1-0
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
13.11.94 Gabon v Mauritius 3-0
13.11.94 Zambia v South Africa 1-1
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
20.11.94 Gabon v Zambia 2-1
10.01.95 Mauritius v Zambia 0-3
08.04.95 Zambia v Gabon 1-0
04.06.95 Mauritius v Gabon
16.07.95 Zambia v Mauritius

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Gabon	3	2	0	1	5	2	4
Mauritius	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

- *Madagascar withdrew*
- *Seychelles withdrew*
- *South Africa withdrew after being named as hosts for the finals*

GROUP 6

04.09.94 Angola v Namibia ....2-[illegible]
04.09.94 Botswana v Guinea ....0-[illegible]
04.09.94 Mali v Mozambique ....2-[illegible]
15.10.94 Namibia v Mali ....2-[illegible]
16.10.94 Guinea v Angola ....3-[illegible]
16.10.94 Mozambique v Botswana ..3-[illegible]
30.10.94 Mali v Guinea ....2-[illegible]
13.11.94 Mali v Angola ....0-[illegible]
13.11.94 Mozambique v Guinea ....2-[illegible]
13.11.94 Namibia v Botswana ....1-[illegible]
08.01.95 Angola v Mozambique ....1-[illegible]
08.01.95 Botswana v Mali ....1-[illegible]
08.01.95 Guinea v Namibia ....3-[illegible]
22.01.95 Botswana v Angola ....1-[illegible]
22.01.95 Mozambique v Namibia ....4-[illegible]
09.04.95 Namibia v Angola ....2-[illegible]
09.04.95 Guinea v Botswana ....5-[illegible]
09.04.95 Mozambique v Mali ....1-[illegible]
23.04.95 Angola v Guinea
23.04.95 Mali v Namibia
23.04.95 Botswana v Mozambique
04.06.95 Angola v Mali
04.06.95 Botswana v Namibia
04.06.95 Guinea v Mozambique
16.07.95 Mali v Botswana
16.07.95 Mozambique v Angola
16.07.95 Namibia v Guinea
30.07.95 Angola v Botswana
30.07.95 Guinea v Mali
30.07.95 Namibia v Mozambique

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	6	4	0	2	13	5	8
Mozambique	6	4	0	2	11	7	8
Angola	6	3	2	1	8	6	8
Mali	6	3	1	2	8	5	7
Namibia	6	1	2	3	7	13	4
Botswana	6	0	1	5	4	15	1

GROUP 7

04.09.94 Burkina Faso v Morocco ...2-1
13.11.94 Morocco v Ivory Coast 1-0
22.01.95 Ivory Coast v Burkina Faso .2-2
09.04.95 Morocco v Burkina Faso ...0-0
04.06.95 Ivory Coast v Morocco
30.07.95 Burkina Faso v Ivory Coast

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso	3	1	2	0	4	3	4
Morocco	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Ivory Coast	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

- *Benin withdrew*
- *Cape Verde Islands withdrew*
- *Equatorial Guinea withdrew*

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AGE GROUPS:

SUPER:	Boys born	August 1, 1975 & later
GROUP A:	Boys born	August 1, 1975 & later
GROUP B:	Boys born	August 1, 1977 & later
GROUP C:	Boys born	August 1, 1980 & later
GROUP D:	Boys born	August 1, 1982 & later
GROUP E:	Boys born	August 1, 1982 & later
GROUP F:	Girls born	August 1, 1975 & later

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
American Airlines Dallas Cup XVI
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TELEPHONE: (214) 387-4477
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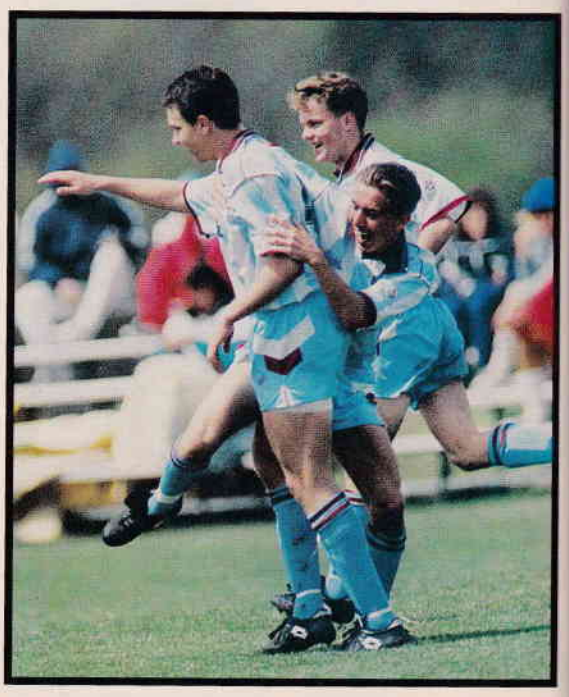

FOOTBALL COACHES AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

HOWE'S THAT

DON HOWE is back and "playing in midfield". That's how Don, the former WBA defender who won 23 England caps between 1958-60, describes his new role with the Football Association.

"I'm called Technical Co-ordinator," Don told *WORLD SOCCER*. "That's the posh name. But really I look on myself as the link man between the young players, the coaches and the FA. I'm the midfielder linking up with the attack.

"It's my job to watch England's youngsters starting with the Under-16's at the National School of Excellence, assess them and recommend the best to Terry Venables, the national team's coach.

"Keith Blunt has developed a good bunch of lads at Under-16 level. Now we must try to keep these boys together at the end of the school year when they go back to their clubs under the YTS scheme and bring them on hoping they will make the grade to the Under-18's, when they come under Ted Powell's guidance.

"It's another of my tasks to persuade the clubs to release the players for training and matches . . . and that's not always easy.

"Does Don help to coach these youngsters?

"No. I work with the coaches and get appraisals of the player's abilities. I'm the captain of the team off the pitch. That's me, Keith Blunt, Ted Powell, Dave Sexton with the Under-21's and finally Terry Venables.

"We're looking to develop England's future internationals by making detailed assessments of the players at each level, bring them on, concentrating on their technical development. That's vital, and so is keeping in touch with the clubs through their Centres of Excellence.

"I obviously can't get round to all of them, so I've been setting up meetings with the coaches in charge of the Centres and Youth Development Officers in the various regions. I tell them what we at the FA expect of them and the players under their control and how we can help them."

Don is employed by the FA and is an enthusiastic member and representative of AFCAT. Is this a conflict of interests? Does his close association with AFCAT cause him problems with the FA?

"Certainly not," says Don. "I answer to Graham Kelly and have regular meetings with him, Terry Venables and Charles Hughes, but I wear two hats. I'm pushing for AFCAT and the FA and hope I can do a good job for them both. AFCAT fills a void and opens doors to all levels of the game, so it's important to encourage the members and hopefully we can work together.

"AFCAT provides a relaxed way of learning about coaching for those people who don't want to go, or have the time, to attend week-long courses. There's no pressure, it breaks down the barriers. The membership is made up of the ordinary blokes who run the Sunday morning sides for the kids and coaches from the pro clubs. All of them want to spread the soccer gospel across the whole spectrum of the game and help youngsters to become better players.

"AFCAT provides a wholehearted, healthy way of learning about the game and has proved there's an area out there that needs feeding. It's being fed by a membership that is thriving on a soccer diet and it's that sort of enthusiasm that drives me on."

What about a National Association of Coaches with all the County Associations, AFCAT, the Schools and PFA all being affiliated to it? "It's a good idea. If we can get everyone working together it can only benefit the game.

"It's also pleasing that so many coaches from clubs in the lower Divisions of the Football League and non-League are becoming members."

In January Done Howe represented AFCAT at the National Soccer Coaches of America Convention in Washington, USA. Was the experience useful?

"Absolutely," says Don. "It was a marvellous trip. The Americans are so enthusiastic and eager to learn. It's like many of the AFCAT members I meet around the country when I'm doing demonstrations – their passion for the game is infectious.

"But I'm also going to Europe to learn. I'm going over to Ajax in Amsterdam to study how they bring up the kids from six years of age. Then I'll report back to AFCAT and the other Associations.

Technical supremo . . . Don Howe

"This will come eventually in this country. The ESFA let us have the boys from nine now. It will be down to six or seven in a few years, mark my words. But this is another area I'd like to develop.

"Guy Roux, the manager of Auxerre is the Bill Shankly of French football. He's spent a week watching Arsenal's pre-season training for the last 10 years. We also had groups of 40 Norwegians watching Arsenal train. The Italians have been over to study our methods.

"I can't recall any English coaches going over to say Real Madrid, Barcelona or Milan to study them. This is a barrier or tradition we must break down.

"Many foreign countries are great admirers of English football. They enjoy watching our clubs in action. We must retain our strengths and combine those with improved technical skills. I want to see our front players running with the ball more – just like Ryan Giggs at Manchester United – and combine that with the top class finishing of an Andy Cole.

"If through the FA and AFCAT we can bring this aspect into our game, the future will be very bright indeed."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April 30	Aylesbury United AFCAT coaching day.
May 21	Birmingham AFCAT coaching day.
June 3-11	England, Brazil, Japan & Sweden tournament.
June 5-18	Women's World Cup, Sweden.
June 22-25	AFCAT Convention, Milton Keynes.
Sept 4-8	FIFA Football Symposium, Prague

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BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

No time for this rubbish

THOSE whom the gods would destroy, said the Romans, they first make mad.

That, of course, was a long time before soccer was invented. Nevertheless, the adage surely holds good for much of what has been going on in the realm of rules.

When the International Board met at Turnberry, they endorsed, astonishingly and inexcusably, a proposal to try 'time-outs;' either in the incipient Olympic Games tournament, or in an under-17 event. Which seems to have become a kind of rubbish dump for the foolish ideas dreamed up in FIFA.

My mind goes back to Miami, where Germany played Argentina before the 1994 World Cup, and where a sardonic German journalist told me, "Sepp Blatter has 50 new ideas every day. And 51 of them are bad!"

The latest, whether it comes from Blatter or the ineffable and, alas, indestructible Havelange, is unquestionably one of the worst of the lot. These wholly superfluous and potentially destructive 'time-outs' would come at a couple of minutes each per team; in each half. In other words, were they not to be concurrent, EIGHT MINUTES could be added to every game!

There is no obvious need for them, the ban on coaching from the touchline has disappeared, coaches and managers can usually convey their needs when a player goes down injured, so the rationale of time-outs is on the face of it non-existent. Unless you think, with horror and reluctance, of TV's demands and Havelange's desire, before the 1994 World Cup, to split games into four quarters.

Havelange, who, like the poor (though he certainly isn't that) is always with us, has this much in common with the Czar of American soccer, Alan ($7million or more) Rothenberg: neither has any real feeling for the game.

Giving a new paradigm for chuzpah, sheer damn cheek, Rothenberg and his surely still-born so-called Major League Soccer decreed before any such tournament was in place, let alone before a ball was kicked in anger, that the kick-in should replace the throw-in.

On the face of it, a truly insane decision. For a start, it was a slap in the face to the great American soccer public, which had turned up in its highly appreciative masses to support the 1994 World Cup, whose attendances put almost every other previous such tournament to shame.

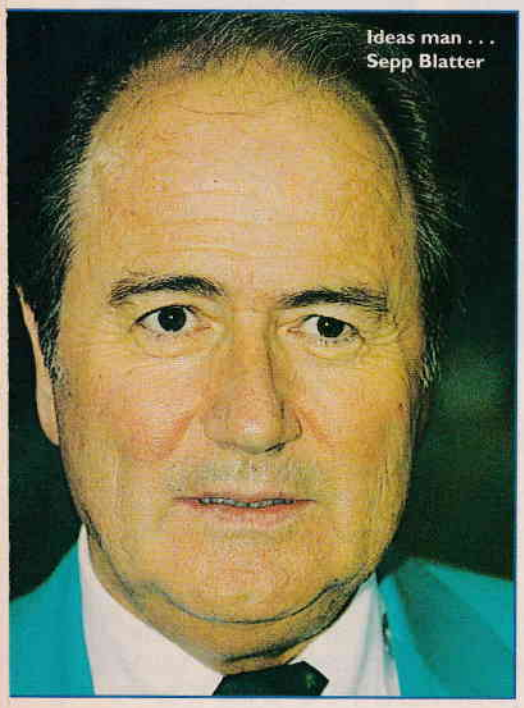
Where was the evidence to suggest that American fans, in their supposed innocence or ignorance, had to be lured with anything as crude as the kick-in? Another idiotic Blatterism, harking back over 100 years, which was shown in the Japanese Under-17 World Tournament to slow down the game; and of course to encourage the big boot and the long ball. Just around the time when Long-Ball Charlie Hughes has just seen his bizarre philosophy discredited and discarded at Lancaster Gate, under Don Howe's new regime.

The MSL, initiating so fatuous a practice, deserve nothing but our contempt and our most heart-felt death wish. Hardly necessary, really, when you look at what's so far been (hardly) happening.

Readers of this column will know that I was deeply sceptical of the possibilities of such a League from the first.

Having watched the World Cup, Americans were never going to settle for junk soccer. And that, clearly enough, was all they were going to get.

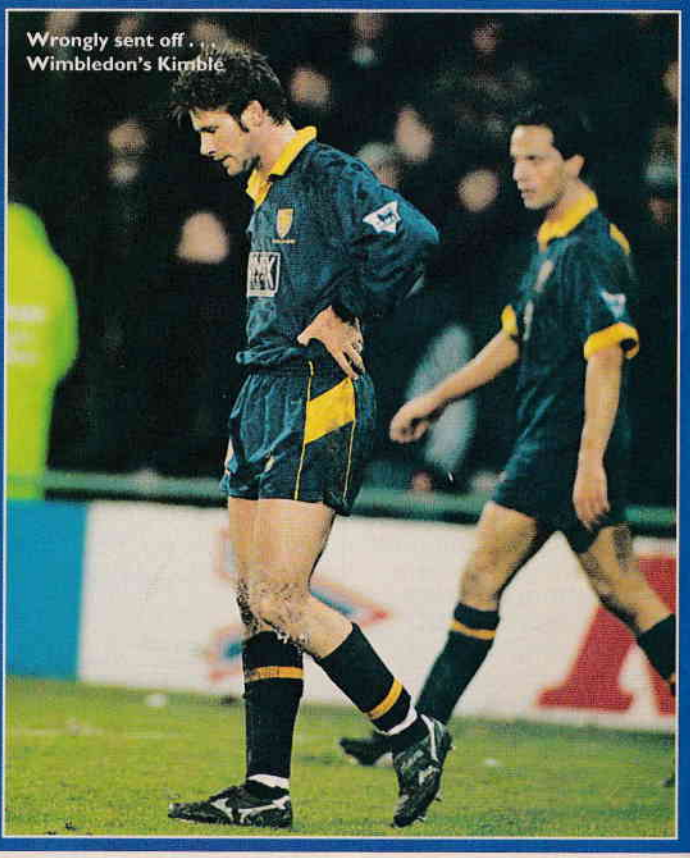
Would I like to see, eventually, a flourishing professional League in the United States? Of course. But this ain't how it's ever going to happen.



Ideas man . . . Sepp Blatter

No need

Rightly sent off . . . Roma's Moriero



Wrongly sent off . . . Wimbledon's Kimble

for this confusion

MEDDLING with the rules continues to produce a depressing fall-out.

Having snubbed the excellent Football League innovation of 1982, the so-called Professional Foul rule which imposed the expulsion of players who brought down a goalbound player OUTSIDE the box, Blatter and Havelange have now enacted the rule both outside and INSIDE the penalty area. Thereby imposing a kind of double jeopardy. Not only does a player who fouls inside the box incur a penalty. He goes off, as well.

Referees have long, and very plainly, been unhappy about this. Time and again they have shown us as much. Not least in a recent Italian League match between Parma and Sampdoria, when the garrulous veteran, Walter Zenga, brought down Parma's Faustino Asprilla.

Zenga should have gone straight off, but he stayed on, got up to all sorts of gamesmanship to put off the penalty taker, Gianfranco Zola; and succeeded, to the extent that Zola cracked his penalty against a post.

Sampdoria were much less fortunate soon afterwards when they played and won in Porto in their Cup-winners Cup game. The usually impeccable David Platt, of all people, late in extra time, zoomed into a badly mistimed tackle from behind on Porto's West Indian Latapi, to be instantly expelled. Under the new International Board/FIFA regulations, first in force at the 1994 World Cup, the referee's decision, however harsh, was correct.

A foul tackle from behind automatically should bring a red card. Except for the fact that this is a custom more honoured in the breach than in the observance. All of us, watching not only British but Continental matches, have seen an infinity of tackles from behind which have missed the ball, and gone unpunished.

Referees have tended to exercise their discretion. Which emphatically should be the case when a booking for a major foul is followed by a minor transgression.

Within a few days, incidents in London and Genoa underlined the point. When Sampdoria played at home to Roma, the referee, Trentalange, very properly booked Roma's Moriero for a nasty foul. Soon after that, when Lombardo of Samp took a corner, Moriero jumped with his back to the ball, which hit him on the elbow. The referee gave him a second yellow card; and hence a red.

When Wimbledon played – impressively – Manchester United at Selhurst, Alan Kimble, like Moriero, was properly booked by referee Hart for a bad foul. Later, he went somewhat too close to a dead-ball kick, was booked again and sent off.

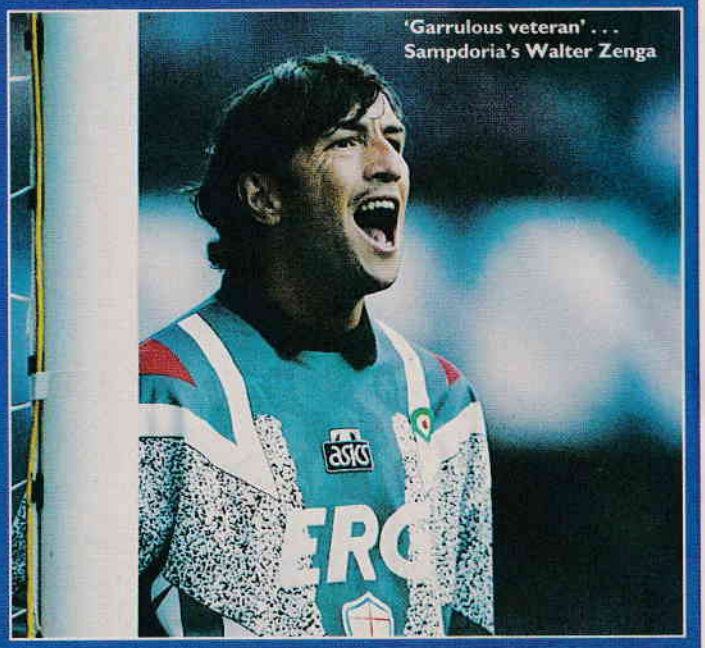
There's no way these two offences had the same gravity, and I totally reject the spurious argument that Hart was 'only obeying orders'.

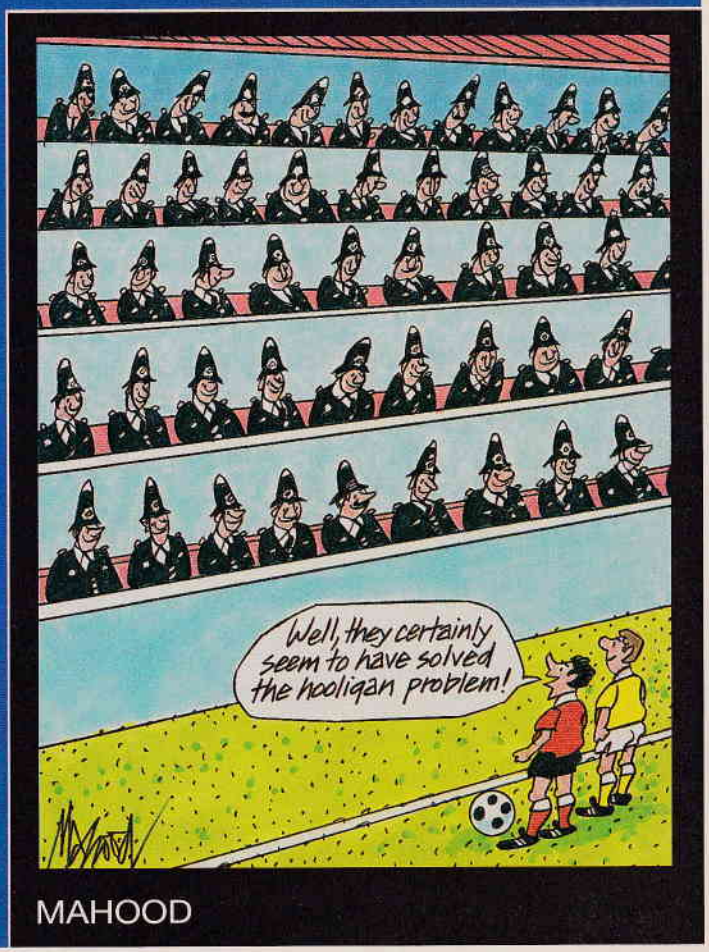
Referees DO have discretion. Time and again when a player has been booked once and re-offends, they let him get away with far more heinous 'crimes' than Kimble committed on that second occasion.

Small wonder pro players now have little idea where they stand.

'All of us, watching not only British but Continental matches, have seen an infinity of tackles from behind which have missed the ball, and gone unpunished'

Paying the penalty . . . Parma's Zola


'Garrulous veteran' . . . Sampdoria's Walter Zenga



MAHOOD

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of *The Football Grounds of Great Britain* and *The Football Grounds of Europe*

TURIN

Name
Stadio delle Alpi, because you can see the Alps from the stadium. Brilliant! Particularly if it's true that a sociology professor won £25,000 in a competition to choose the name.
Capacity
71,012 all-seated
Opened
31 May 1990
Location
Cascina Continassa, on the northern outskirts. Excellent road links if you live outside Turin. Not so good coming from the city itself.

● 'SEEMINGLY unfinished and transient,' was one polite description. Unlovely, spindly, messy, over-elaborate, unsympathetic may be more honest, or how about 'a cathedral in the desert,' because there are no restaurants or bars nearby. Some engineers go into raptures over its preposterously elaborate, steel and cable braced roof and upper tier, and those weird A-frame, striped supports for the Teflon-tented covers at each end. But Italy's first ever privately-owned football stadium, a snip at £76million, is now possibly also its least popular. Tenants Juventus complain that the place is foggy, cold and draughty (and that's just the dressing rooms), and that the rent is too high, and that fans are staying away, despite Juve leading Serie A (although hard times at Fiat, who own the club, must also be a factor). Poor gates forced the club to hold their recent UEFA Cup semi-final tie against Borussia Dortmund in Milan's San Siro stadium in a bid to attract more fans. They even threatened to build a completely new stadium, until the Mayor urged them to relent. Meanwhile, the 15-25,000 gates of Juve's co-tenants, poor old bankrupt Torino, could mostly be housed in the stadium's lower tier (the one which still gets wet despite the ultra-complex cable-tensioned roof). Oh yes, and there's that camera and speaker module suspended from cables right over the centre circle. So irritating!
***WORLD SOCCER* rating** 5 (out of 10)

TOTTENHAM

Name
White Hart Lane
Capacity
33,124 all-seated
Opened
September 1899
Location
On Tottenham High Road, North London. White Hart Lane is the British Rail Station up the road (trains from Broad Street, or change at Seven Sisters tube).

● FRIENDS, I have a dream! Demolish White Hart Lane, move the Spurs team to Highbury, and get the best of both worlds – a stylish team in a stylish stadium. Actually, WHL is nowadays much improved. The discredited regimes of the 1970s and 1980s all but destroyed its pre-war dignity, culminating in the expensive ruination of the East Stand. But under chairman Alan Sugar a new architect has begun to pull the pieces together, with a new two-tiered South Stand, and a long-term plan to add a new upper tier to the North Stand (which is now dwarfed by a high roof in readiness for the expansion). Eventually Spurs hope to get rid of the two thick columns of the East Stand and perhaps even add a third tier, lifting the capacity to 40,000. White Hart Lane will never be beautiful, but then who needs pretty stands when you have Klinsmann? And if they want a new name, how about the Sugar Bowl? Now that must be worth a £25,000 bung, surely professor?
***WORLD SOCCER* rating** 7 (out of 10)

TOULOUSE

Name
Le Stadium (to distinguish it from the rugby stade in town)
Capacity
35,200 all-seated (to be enlarged to 37,638)
Opened
1950, renovated 1983

● USING an older venue no longer in existence, Toulouse featured in the 1938 World Cup but lost out for the 1984 European Championships. For France '98, Le Stadium will undergo £9million worth of renovation, expanding the capacity and tarting up its drab exterior. But because it was originally designed around a cycle-track and like a mini-Wembley has straight sides and curved ends, Le Stadium can only develop so far (rather like the Second Division team that plays there). Now what the place really needs is a decent name. So, because Toulouse is home to the French aerospace industry, how about Stade de la Concorde? Can I have my £25,000 now please?
***WORLD SOCCER* rating** 6 (out of 10)

TBLISI

Name
Stadion Boris Paichadze (formerly Stadion Dynamo)
Capacity
74,324 all-seated
Opened
1935, as Stalin Dynamo Stadium, totally rebuilt 1976

● 'GEORGIA, Georgia on my mind,' went the song. But who still thinks of Georgia, now that a veil of apathy has replaced the Iron Curtain? For example, did you know that Dynamo Tblisi renamed themselves Iberia for a few years, but are now back to their old name? (Maybe they had some advice from that Turin professor.) Their two-tiered concrete bowl in the midst of a popular public park is plain, with a cantilevered roof all round, but not too wide a track. However, as Welsh visitors last September found out, like the battered but delightful city, Georgia's national stadium badly needs modernising, and, even more desperately, Dynamo crave more than the weekly routine thrashing of their Georgian League opponents.
***WORLD SOCCER* rating** 6 (out of 10)

next month

SHOWDOWN IN VIENNA
WE PREVIEW THE
1995 EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL

plus

EUROPE'S NEW ORDER
SPECIAL FOCUS ON
THE CHANGING FACE
OF EASTERN EUROPE

***PLUS** . . . Brian Glanville, Trevor Brooking, Keir Radnedge . . . and **WORLD SOCCER**'s unique international results service.*

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